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REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

PUBLIC LIBRARIES;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
23 *July* 1849.

548.

Jovis, 15° *die Martii,* 1849.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed on the best Means of extending the Establishment of LIBRARIES freely open to the Public, especially in Large Towns, in *Great Britain* and *Ireland.*

Veneris, 23° *die Martii,* 1849.

Committee nominated :

Mr. Ewart.
Viscount Ebrington.
Mr. Disraeli.
Sir Harry Verney.
Mr. Charteris.
Mr. Bunbury.
Mr. George Alexander Hamilton.
Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Milnes.
The Lord Advocate.
Mr. Goulburn.
Mr. Thicknesse.
Mr. Mackinnon.
Mr. Kershaw.
Mr. Cardwell.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the said Committee.

Lunæ, 26° *die Martii,* 1849.

Ordered, THAT Mr. Goulburn be discharged from further attendance on the Committee; and that Sir John Walsh be added thereto.

Lunæ, 30° *die Aprilis,* 1849.

Ordered, THAT Mr. Cardwell be discharged from further attendance on the Committee; and that Mr. Wyld be added thereto.

Lunæ, 23° *die Julii,* 1849.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to Report Observations, together with the Minutes of Evidence, to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed on the best Means of extending the Establishment of LIBRARIES freely open to the Public, especially in large Towns, in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, and who were empowered to Report their Observations, together with the MINUTES OF EVIDENCE taken before them to The House ;——HAVE considered the Matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following REPORT :

SEVERAL years have now elapsed since the inquiries of Parliament, and the observations of the Public, were directed to the formation of Free Galleries, Museums of Art, as well as Schools of Design, as a means of enlightening the people of this country. There were not, at that time, wanting those who held that such institutions, however successfully established among foreign nations, would not be appreciated, and might be abused, by our own. The experiment, however, was made. The British Museum, the Gallery at Hampton Court, the National Gallery—various other institutions in the provinces, as well as in London—were thrown open to the people.

It is now generally admitted that no abuse has marked the change, but that much rational enjoyment and much popular enlightenment have distinguished it. One improvement, however, yet remains to be accomplished, hitherto almost untried in this country—the establishment of Public Libraries, freely accessible to all the people. Such Libraries have long existed on the Continent. It can scarcely be doubted that their existence has been fraught with advantage to the literature and to the general character of the countries in which they have been founded. On the other hand, it may, with equal fairness, be inferred that our own literature (as well as our own people), denied the benefit of such institutions, must have proportionately suffered. While we learn that, more than half a century ago, the first step taken by a foreign writer was to consult a Public Library on the subject of his studies or his composition, we find that no such auxiliary was at the service of British intellect. We find Gibbon complaining that, in his time, the "greatest city in the world was destitute of that useful institution, a Public Library;" and that "the writer who had undertaken to treat any large historical subject, was reduced to the necessity of purchasing for his private use a numerous and valuable collection of the books which must form the basis of his work."* It appears that in a large town like Liverpool, there was no public institution from which Roscoe could procure the ordinary Italian works requisite for composing his Historical Biographies ; and that he (like Gibbon) was obliged to collect his own instruments of literary labour. Even within the last quarter of a century, Graham, the historian of North America, removed from London to Göttingen, for the sole purpose of availing himself of a well-stored and freely-accessible Public Library.† It may safely be inferred that British literature (as compared with that of foreign nations) has suffered from the want of Public Libraries, for more than a century. Nor can it be denied that the same privation must have acted injuriously on the great body of our people.

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* Gibbon's Miscellaneous Works, pp. 748–9, ed. of 1837.

† *See* Mr. Edwards's letter, at the end of the Minutes of Evidence.

The principal advantages offered by foreign Libraries consist in their number, in their entire accessibility, and in the fact that the books they contain are allowed, on liberal, yet sufficiently protective, conditions, to circulate beyond the walls of the Library.

Comparative statements have been laid before the Committee of the number of Public Libraries in different countries. It appears that

France contains - - - -	107	Public Libraries.
Belgium - - - - -	14	"
The Prussian States - - -	44	"
Austria (with Lombardy and Venice)	48	"
Saxony - - - - -	6	"
Bavaria - - - - -	17	"
Denmark - - - - -	5	"
Tuscany - - - - -	9	"

Of all these Libraries it may be generally stated that admission is granted unrestrictedly; to the poor as well as to the rich, to the foreigner as well as to the native.

The Libraries of France, says M. Guizot, "are accessible in every way; the Library is open to every one who comes to read, and the books are lent to every one who is a known person in the town."

The Libraries of Belgium, says M. Van de Weyer, "are all accessible to the public; any person without any letter of authorization or introduction, may go into them and be supplied with a book if he asks for it." Equal accessibility is shown to exist in the libraries of Italy, by M. Libri; and in those of Germany, by Mr. Edwards.

Yet it is stated that we have only one Library in Great Britain equally accessible with these numerous Libraries abroad; the Library founded by Humphrey Chetham, in the borough of Manchester. Nor is this contrast displayed by the European Continent alone. Our younger brethren, the people of the United States of America, have already anticipated us in the formation of Public Libraries. It appears that in the United States there are above 100 such institutions; of these, a large proportion are entirely open to the public. Almost every State has its Public Library, supported by a vote of the State Legislature.

If from countries we descend to particular towns, we find the contrast between our own and foreign lands equally discouraging.

Paris possesses - - -	7	open Public Libraries.
Brussels - - - -	2	"
Berlin - - - -	2	"
Vienna - - - -	3	"
Milan - - - -	2	"
Dresden - - - -	4	"
Munich - - - -	2	"
Copenhagen - - -	3	"
Florence - - - -	6	"

Of these a large proportion are Lending Libraries. The list might be greatly extended. If we compare the size of London, or of any of our gigantic manufacturing and commercial towns, with the size of any one of those which have been named, we shall find that whole congregated masses of our people appear to be entirely without Public Libraries.

It is true that in London we have several old, though scanty, Libraries. But they would be totally inadequate (even if improved) to meet the wants of our extending population. The old part of London is the part best supplied with Libraries. The vast population which is being added almost daily to the Metropolis is withdrawing further and further from even the scanty light which these libraries diffuse. The City, and the neighbourhood of the British Museum are the parts of London in which the public is the best supplied with books. But, so far as Libraries are auxiliary to learning, a kind of literary darkness seems to prevail over the vast extent of the newly-formed portion of the Metropolis.

There is no Public Library in Pimlico, none in Marylebone, none in Finsbury, none in Southwark, and only the shadow of a departed Library in Westminster.

It would seem, indeed, that our ancestors paid much more attention to the formation of such Institutions than ourselves. Almost every Library in London and in the country, approaching to the character of a Public Library, is an old Library.

Our PRINCIPAL LIBRARIES have generally been deemed those which (under the statute of the 54 Geo. 3, c. 156,) were entitled to receive a copy of every new work on its publication.

Those Libraries were formerly,

The British Museum, London;
The Library of Sion College, London;
The Bodleian, Oxford;
The University Library, Cambridge;
The Advocates' Library, Edinburgh;
The University Libraries of Edinburgh,
Glasgow,
Aberdeen,
St. Andrew's;
The Library of Trinity College, Dublin; and
The Library of the Queen's Inns, Dublin.

Of these (by a statute passed in the 6th and 7th year of Will. 4, c. 110), the number entitled to receive a first copy of every work on its publication was reduced to five:

The British Museum;
The Bodleian Library;
The University Library, Cambridge;
The Advocates' Library, Edinburgh; and
The Library of Trinity College, Dublin.

The remaining six were compensated for the loss of the privilege they previously enjoyed, by a sum, which is voted annually to each of them by Parliament, amounting altogether to 2,800 *l.* a year.

The question naturally suggests itself, whether Libraries thus privileged, either to exact the contribution of a work from its author, or to receive annually a sum of money instead thereof, are not bound to make some requital to the public, by throwing their literary treasures (so far as they reasonably can do so) open. Your Committee are of opinion, that, in the absence of any valid reason to the contrary, they ought to do so. It is well known that the British Museum Library, though not (like the Libraries on the Continent) free, is yet easy, of access. But Your Committee see no sound reason why any one should be debarred from free access to the British Museum more than from the Public Libraries of the large towns on the Continent of Europe. They consider that, *primâ facie*, the same presumption is applicable to the other Libraries receiving books from authors, or grants from Parliament; as Sion College, London; the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh; and the Library of the Queen's Inns, Dublin. With respect to the UNIVERSITY-LIBRARIES, Your Committee feel assured that the learned bodies to which they belong are inclined to give every facility to the acquirement and diffusion of knowledge. It will not, however, escape the attention of those learned bodies, that the University-Libraries on the Continent have long been more freely open than our own. Indeed, the altered and anomalous regulations of admission to our own University-Libraries, indicate that some change is possible there, if not impending. From the University-Libraries at Oxford and Cambridge, not only the public, but the under-graduates of the University, are generally excluded. Trinity College, Dublin, opens its doors to the public on certain easily-performed conditions. In Scotland, the Library of Glasgow University, like those of Oxford and Cambridge, is closed even against students. Admission to the University-Library at Aberdeen is also much restricted; while at St. Andrew's, all persons furnished with an introduction are admitted to the use of the Library. M. Van de Weyer shows that the Belgian University-Libraries are open to the public. M. Libri that the "public are admitted to read in every one of the University-Libraries of Italy": and M. Guizot states that he "does not think it in any respect objectionable that such Libraries should be under proper regulations; and that he thinks proper regulations can be made for that purpose."

In addition to the Libraries thus privileged to receive the *primitiæ* of an author's labours, or an annual income in lieu thereof, we have several LOCAL LIBRARIES of some extent and value. Thus we have in Red Cross-street, in the City, the Library founded by Dr. Williams, in the year 1716, containing about 20,000 volumes. The Trustees of this Library have shown much liberality in making it publicly accessible.

We have also in London Wall, in the City, the Library of Sion College, founded by Dr. White, the Rector of St. Dunstan's, in the year 1636. This Library contains between 35,000 and 40,000 volumes. It appears to be accessible on nearly the same terms as the British Museum.

In the City of Westminster there still exists the Library founded by Archbishop Tenison, in the year 1685. This Library contains about 4,000 volumes. It is now devoted, or rather degraded, to the purposes of a club-room.

In Manchester we have Chetham's Library, founded by Humphrey Chetham, in the year 1653, containing nearly 20,000 volumes. This Library is celebrated as being almost the only Library in England freely accessible to the public.

In Glasgow there exists a free Public Library, "Stirling's Library," founded by Walter Stirling, in 1785; to which it appears that the public, for some not very easily discoverable reason, do not resort.

In Dublin we find the Library of the Royal Dublin Society, founded in 1731, containing about 19,000 volumes, and partaking of an annual grant from Parliament. To this Library the public are admitted on the same terms as to the British Museum.

The Library of the Royal Irish Academy (also in Dublin) has received from Parliament, since the year 1815, a grant of 300 *l.* a year. It contains an increasing stock of nearly 10,000 volumes.

There is also in Dublin, Marsh's Library, founded by Archbishop Marsh, about the year 1700. This Library contains about 18,000 volumes, and is very liberally open to the public.

Connected with the Deaneries and Chapters of our Cathedrals, there is an ancient set of Libraries, commonly called CATHEDRAL LIBRARIES. Of these there are 34 in England, and 6 in Ireland. The basis of these Libraries is theological. To some of them additions are annually made. In a part of them, the books have been neglected. But general attention is now paid to their care and restoration. In several (as Durham, Manchester, Peterborough, and York) a moderate freedom of access is granted to the public. The number of volumes in each ranges from 4,000 to 11,000. It might be possible, with the sanction of the learned and enlightened persons who preside over these Libraries, to form them into *nuclei* of Provincial Libraries for the ancient cities of this country.

PAROCHIAL LIBRARIES once prevailed to a considerable extent throughout England, Wales and Scotland. Your Committee have collected information (by the valuable aid of Mr. Edwards, and the Rev. Mr. Smith) respecting the existence of 163 such Libraries in England and Wales, and 16 in Scotland. Their foundation was, in the first instance, due to individual benevolence; but subsequently, and principally, to the efforts of Dr. Bray and his "Associates," at the beginning, and in the middle, of the last century. They were generally intended for the use of the clergy. An Act passed in the year 1708, (7th of Anne, c. 14,) "for the better preservation of Parochial Libraries." The preamble of that Act states that such Libraries had been founded by the "charitable contributions" of "well-disposed persons," for the better prosecution of the studies "of the indigent clergy." It proceeds to enact, that catalogues shall be regularly kept, benefactions entered, and a sort of inspection exercised by the Ordinary. The Act would appear to have been ineffectual. Of many of these Libraries, it is stated that "the books lie exposed to chance, and liable to be torn by the children of the village." In one, however, that of Beccles, in Suffolk, the books have been rescued from danger. They have been deposited in a room in the town, and "made the commencement of a Town Library." Your Committee cannot but recommend that the example of the people of Beccles should be imitated wherever there is an existing parish Library.

Whatever may be our disappointment at the rarity of Public Libraries in the United Kingdom, we feel satisfaction in stating that the uniform current of the evidence tends to prove the increased qualifications of the people to appreciate and enjoy such institutions. Testimony, showing a great improvement in national habits and manners, is abundantly given in the evidence taken by the Committee. That they would be still further improved by the establishment of Public Libraries, it needs not even the high authority and ample evidence of the witnesses who appeared before the Committee to demonstrate.

There can be no greater proof of the fitness of the people for these institutions than their own independent efforts to create them. Evidence will be found in the subjoined Minutes of the extent of the Libraries connected with Mechanics' Institutes. Even in those useful places of resort of the temperate working classes, the Coffee-houses of London (of which there are now nearly 2,000), it has been found necessary to supply the frequenters of them with a collection of books. The recent successful literary efforts of several of our working men is another reason for encouraging them by the formation of Public Libraries. The great practical education of an Englishman is derived from the incessant intercourse between man and man in trade, and from the interchange and collision of opinion elicited by our system of local self-government; both teaching him the most important of all lessons, the habit of self-control. But it would be wise to superadd to these rugged lessons of practical life some of the more softening and expanding influences which reading and which thought supply. It has been remarked by an American witness, that "nothing strikes an American more forcibly than to see how little reading there is in England." This contrast (which we at once acknowledge and lament) arises partly from the wise application of the system of local self-government and local rating to the diffusion of universal education in America, and partly from the cheapness of books there; the great demand for which—in consequence of that very diffusion of education—springs from a class which cannot afford to pay for *dear* books. But these disadvantages on our part are additional reasons for giving, from other sources, greater facilities of reading to our fellow-countrymen. It would be a libel on their character, and an error in fact, to deny that they are sensible to the value and the blessings of reading. Scarcely any class appear to be so backward and benighted as to be impenetrable to such influences. We find that the efforts of a zealous parochial clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Brereton, to establish a self-supporting Library among the poorest part of our population in the parish of St. Martin's were successful. An increasing desire for such means of self-instruction exists in Spitalfields. Of our Village Libraries, for the rural population, an earnest promoter of them, the Rev. W. R. Fremantle, states that they are "extending very much," and that "there is a very great and increasing inclination to make use of them on the part of the agricultural people of the country." But perhaps the most encouraging symptoms of a capability to appreciate books are traceable in the evidence of Mr. Imray, relating to the Libraries of the Ragged Schools of the Metropolis. One of these he describes as frequented by about 100 constantly-varying readers, of a class approaching to mendicancy, who, though violent and ill-conducted at first, soon acquire perfect habits of order, and learn to take pleasure in reading.

It would seem, from the Evidence, that few countries are better calculated to profit by Public Libraries than Scotland. A respect for education and reading, long fostered by the ancient and excellent system of instruction by means of parochial schools, is hereditary in the people of Scotland. Even in distant rural districts Libraries have been formed. Your Committee observe with satisfaction the tendency in Scotland to form Farmers' Libraries; this is a wise proceeding, by which the theory of books is brought down to the test of practice. "Itinerating libraries" (hereafter to be described) had their origin, and still remain, in Scotland. The successful formation of a Library at Peebles, and its results in promoting literary taste and temperate and moral habits among the inhabitants, are shown in a letter to the Chairman of this Committee from the celebrated publisher, Mr. Wm. Chambers. But these tendencies to the acquisition of knowledge deserve further development, both by the formation of Libraries in towns, and the dissemination of Village Libraries throughout the rural population of Scotland.

The recent extension which has taken place in the system of education in Ireland leads to the same inference respecting the importance of Public Libraries in Ireland. The evidence of Mr. Hamilton, M.P., shows that instruction has, of late years, been diffused far more widely than it ever was before among our Irish fellow-countrymen. But Libraries are not only needed for the increasing intelligence of the Irish people. The social habits which such institutions would engender, the approximation of persons of different parties and of different creeds which they would promote, are stated by Irish witnesses to be of great importance to the manners, habits, and repose of the nation. As a proof of the penury of books in Ireland, amidst a population every day becoming more capable of using them, it is recorded that there are 73 towns in Ireland (containing an average population of 2,300) in which a bookseller's shop is not to be found.

Amid the reasons in favour of the establishment of Public Libraries, we must not omit to consider the great extension which has been given, of late years, to the system of "Lecturing" throughout the country. Half a century ago this system was comparatively unknown. The demand for "Lectures," especially in our trading and manufacturing districts, has called into existence a new class of men, and created, as it were, a new profession. The profits, as well as the influence, derivable from this pursuit, have attracted to it persons of superior education; who make a kind of periodical circuit in different districts of the country. It is almost a necessary consequence, that lectures should lead to reading. The lecturer himself frequently needs the assistance of books. His hearers naturally wish to pursue, by means of books, the subject on which his lectures have interested or instructed them. The power of access to standard works in a Public Library would tend to render the lecturer less superficial, and to promote investigation among his hearers. It would even be serviceable to our provincial press. It may often happen (as is shown in the evidence of Mr. Dawson) that a journalist finds the necessity of consulting political, historical, and literary works. Students in the provinces (*see* the evidence of the same witness) are now constrained to collect together the scattered questions on which they wish to satisfy their minds, and make an occasional pilgrimage to London, to seek for a solution of their difficulties from the shelves of the British Museum. There can scarcely be a stronger proof than this of the necessity for creating Provincial Public Libraries. But the tendency of modern publication and of modern literature sets in this direction. A vast and increasing number of new popular works, cheap in price, condensed in form, and valuable in substance, is continually issuing from the British press. M. Guizot truly states that there is no such supply in France. Even such useful popular publications as our best almanacs do not find their equals there. The supply of popular publications in parts of Germany and Italy is not greater, perhaps less, than that in France. This tendency towards popular publications in Great Britain—the result in a great degree of our superior capital and enterprise—would seem not only to facilitate, but to invite, the formation of Public Libraries. It is also truly observed that the establishment of such depositories of standard literature would lessen, or perhaps entirely destroy, the influence of frivolous, unsound, and dangerous works. Your Committee are glad to take this opportunity of echoing an opinion expressed by M. Van de Weyer: "I should positively say, (says M. Van de Weyer), that first-rate books ought to be put into the hands of the people instead of inferior publications. They enjoy and feel the beauties of the higher class of literature as deeply as any literary man; as in our theatres they applaud the very passages which a literary man would most admire." This opinion is strongly confirmed by Mr. Imray, even as regards the readers in the Libraries of our Ragged Schools. Mr. Imray is asked, "When they (the frequenters of such Libraries) read the better class of books, do they prefer them to the books you have spoken of" (the inferior books)?—*Answer.* "So much so, that I do not think they would ever return to the lower class of books, after having read the other (the better) books." Shall we therefore abandon the people to the influence of a low, enfeebling, and often pestilential literature, instead of enabling them to breathe a more pure, elevated, and congenial atmosphere?

But, it may be reasonably asked, in what mode can such institutions as Public Libraries be established and maintained? To this question Your Committee are bound, so far as they are able, to supply a practical answer.

The general want, in all such cases, is not so much the want of objects to be deposited, as of a depository for the reception of them. It is probable that, if buildings devoted to the purposes of a library or museum existed, and if the institutions for which they were erected were firmly and inalienably secured in some fixed and lasting society or corporation, and exempted from the burthen of local and general taxation, the materials to fill those buildings would easily, and in many cases voluntarily, be supplied.

Your Committee will first proceed to inquire how far any of the existing Libraries may possibly be made more available either for the reception of books or the convenience of readers; and then suggest such measures as appear to be practicable as well as desirable for the formation of new institutions.

It is evident that there should be in all countries, libraries of two sorts: libraries of deposit and research; and libraries devoted to the general reading and circulation of books. Libraries of deposit should contain, if possible, almost every book that ever has existed. This point is justly dwelt upon by many witnesses, and especially by that learned person and experienced bibliophilist, M. Libri. The most insignificant tract, the most trifling essay, a sermon, a newspaper, or a song, may afford an illustration of manners or opinions elucidatory of the past, and throw a faithful, though feeble light, on the pathway of the future historian. In such libraries nothing should be rejected. Not but that libraries of deposit and of general reading may (as in the case of the British Museum) be combined. But though such combination is possible, and may be desirable, the distinction which we have drawn should never be forgotten.

Looking to the British Museum as a library for reading, the large number of duplicate, and even of triplicate, copies existing in it, claims our first attention. The number of them is stated to be about 52,000. It has been suggested by Mr. Edwards, that "no better use could be made of these duplicates than to constitute them into a lending library; and that the triplicate copies might most usefully be presented to provincial libraries." In this suggestion Your Committee are disposed to coincide. This question, however, (with others relating to the British Museum) is now before a Commission appointed to inquire into that great establishment. The report of that Commission will no doubt be considered before any resolution respecting the disposal of these duplicates is formed. There is, also, another question of great importance which will no doubt have undergone the consideration of that Commission; a question which materially concerns the working classes, and all persons whose occupations confine them during the day; we mean the opening of the reading-room of the Museum to those who desire to frequent it in the evening. The experiment of thus opening libraries in the evening has been tried with success in the Library of St. Génévieve in Paris, and in the Libraries of Rouen and Orleans. "In those two towns," (says M. Guizot,) "the public libraries are open in the evening, and a great many workmen come to read." Your Committee earnestly recommend this question, as well as the preceding question on the disposal of duplicate and triplicate copies, to the consideration of the Government.

Let us see, however, how far existing Libraries, however scanty in accommodation, may be made more available to the public. The librarian of Dr. Williams's library (already referred to, in Redcross-street, in the City) states, that the rooms applicable to the purposes of reading might accommodate (instead of 50 or 60, as at present) more than 100 persons. Were this additional room conceded, and the library thrown open in the evening, a much larger number of readers, especially of the working classes of society, would derive benefit from the contents of the library. It may, however, be doubted whether (if it be within the power and meet with the approbation of the trustees) this library might not be more beneficially transferred to some other part of London. The neighbourhood of University College is suggested by the librarian. In that case perfect admissibility on the part of the public should be secured, and the books should be rendered accessible in the evening.

Near to Dr. Williams's Library, in London Wall is situated (as we have already described), the Library of Sion College. The Rev. Mr. Christmas, the librarian, suggests, that by an arrangement, enabling more persons to take out books on certain terms of subscription, this library might be opened to the public, and

200 persons accommodated, where at present there are not more than six or seven readers. It is, however, unlikely that this, or any other library in a large town, will be extensively used, unless it be open in the evening.

"Within the precinct of the City and Liberty of Westminster" is situated (as has already been stated) Archbishop Tenison's Library. In the "orders and constitutions" of the founder it is established that "the bookes of the said library" are to be "for public use, but especially for the use of the vicar and lecturer of the said parish," and other clergymen within the precinct. This library appears to have been very improperly converted into a club, or news-room. The books (not exceeding 4,000 in number) repose undisturbed upon the shelves, while the room, dedicated to the purposes of study by its founder, is frequented by persons who come to read newspapers and to play at chess. The books in this library are stated to be "of great variety, curiosity, and value, but to have suffered injury from dust and neglect: were it restored it would be much frequented. and accessions made to the library in the way of books presented." It appears that this library, if properly restored, could accommodate 30 readers with ease. The restoration of the library is now under the consideration of the trustees. It might possibly form the *nucleus* of a local library for Westminster. But neither this, nor any other library, will be extensively used, unless available in the evening.

The library of the Royal Dublin Society appears to be capable of considerable extension and increased popular utility. This Library, that of the Queen's Inns, and that of the Royal Irish Academy, all receiving grants of public money, owe to the public the requital of free admission, and of access in the evening.

In Archbishop Marsh's Library in Dublin the greatest liberality and willingness to admit the public have been evinced. But its more extended usefulness has been unfortunately limited by its want of funds. Access in the evening to this library, if consistent with its safety, is extremely desirable.

It also appears to Your Committee that Stirling's Library at Glasgow, the object of whose founder was, "the constant and perpetual existence of a Public Library for the citizens of Glasgow," would be improved according to the spirit of its foundation, if it could be rendered accessible to readers in the evening.

Chetham's Library at Manchester, though so freely open, does not admit evening readers; an obvious *desideratum* in a town like Manchester.

Every witness examined on the subject has given an opinion favourable to the grant of assistance, on certain strict and clear conditions, by the Government, for the formation of Public Libraries. This is one of those cases in which a comparatively small aid may accomplish a large portion of public good. It is also one of those few cases in which Education may be promoted without involving the agitation of theological questions or incurring the danger of political animosity. In almost every state of the American Union, the State legislature sustains a Public Library. It also contributes a sum equal to the amount raised by individual contributions to the support of the Libraries of the Academies. This principle is recognised in our own annual votes for School-houses and for Schools of Design. It might, as suggested, be extended to Public Libraries, and would be a far less objectionable appropriation of the public money than many other unopposed modes of expending it.

Your Committee further recommend that a power be given by Parliament enabling Town Councils to levy a small rate for the creation and support of Town Libraries. An Act was passed in the year 1845, conferring the power on Town Councils to levy a rate (to the extent of a halfpenny in the pound) for "encouraging the establishment of museums in large towns;" commonly known under the name of the "Museums' Act." Some few towns have availed themselves of this privilege. It is probable that more will do so. A call, however, has been made upon the Legislature from more than one quarter, and especially from Limerick, to extend this power of rating to the case of Libraries. One town (Warrington), even under the sanction of the existing Museums' Act, has founded an open Public Library as well as a Museum. The association of the two institutions seems to be a most obvious and desirable alliance. In all our chief provincial towns it is requisite that there should be Topographical Libraries as well as Topographical

Museums; where history may find a faithful portraiture of local events, local literature, and local manners; and art and science a collection of all objects illustrative of the climate, soil, and resources of the surrounding country. SPECIAL LIBRARIES would, no doubt, form themselves in appropriate localities. At Hamburgh the Commercial Library has been famous for more than a century. Its existence is stated by Dr. Meyer to have had a most beneficial influence on the character of the merchants of Hamburgh. It would seem that in our large commercial and manufacturing towns, as well as in our agricultural districts, such libraries would naturally spring up, illustrative of the peculiar trade, manufactures, and agriculture of the place, and greatly favourable to the practical development of the science of political economy. Your Committee are convinced that the first great step in the formation of Libraries (and of similar institutions) is to establish a place of deposit, a local habitation for the books. That once formed, measures should be taken (as suggested in the valuable evidence of Mr. Brotherton) for securing the property—the buildings as well as the books—in the town council of the place, or in some fixed and perpetually-renewable body. Thus the evils which have befallen so many of our charitable foundations from the loss of trustees, and a necessary appeal to a court of equity, would be avoided. There can be no doubt, that these two conditions once fulfilled—a fixed and proper place of deposit, and a due investment of the property—Donation will abundantly supply the books. Donation has been the source of the principal libraries which have ever or anywhere, been formed. The British Museum (though supplied from the public revenue with the means of buying books) owes its principal literary treasures to Donation. So do our colleges and almost all our local libraries. A large proportion of the books in foreign libraries have been contributed by individuals. It is not easy to conceive that a benevolent and enlightened citizen can leave a more pleasing or lasting monument behind him than a donation of books to a Public Library; constituting a department, on which his name might be inscribed as a benefactor, not only to his own times but to future ages.

The importance of the formation of VILLAGE LIBRARIES has already attracted the attention of our resident proprietary. It is the opinion of this Committee, that much of the future character of our agricultural population, social, moral, and religious, may depend on the extension and due formation of Village Libraries. In so important an object, it is alike the duty of the landed proprietor and of the parochial clergy to assist. By such means the frivolous or unprincipled books which now circulate among our rural population, may be replaced by sound, healthy, and genuinely English literature. The people may be taught many lessons which concern their material (as well as their moral and religious) welfare. The cleanliness and ventilation of their dwellings, habits of providence, of temperance, a taste for something better than mere animal enjoyment, may be instilled into them through the instrumentality of well-chosen books. There is also one important subject on which Village or Parochial Libraries may be the means of conveying most valuable information. We mean the subject of EMIGRATION. Inasmuch as so large a portion of our people annually withdraw from the mother country to seek under another hemisphere the support which their parent land denies them, it is essential that they should be previously supplied with the most exact and ample information, in town as well as in country Libraries, on a subject so closely connected with their future fortunes. As excellent books on emigration more and more frequently issue from the press, it will be easy, in no hasty and ill-concerted manner, but gradually and long beforehand, to make the people well acquainted with our different colonies, the mode of reaching them, and all the requisite preliminary measures to be adopted by a settler. It appears likely that such a subject would greatly interest them. Even respecting the frequenters of our ragged schools, it is stated (by Mr. Imray), that "since the means of emigration have been provided for those classes, the rage amongst them for reading works which give information regarding the countries to which they intend to go, has been very great."

The Rev. J. J. Smith suggests that a Village Library might comprehend "all classes of persons, the subscription being different for works of different classes and sizes." This suggestion, as affecting the extent and the constant renewal of such libraries, is worthy of consideration. The higher class of works, after having been read by the larger subscribers, might form a portion of the standard works of the general Village Library.

Interesting evidence has been given by the Rev. John Crombie Brown on the formation of "Itinerating Libraries in Scotland." By the location of 50 volumes in each village or hamlet, and its replacement by a new set of books at the end of two years, a constant supply of fresh works was afforded to an extensive district in the Lothians. This system, though not now in vigour, appears to have been, while it was in active operation, successful. It still exists; and a record of it (as capable of future development) appears to be a duty imposed on Your Committee. But, under whatever form it be established, they cannot doubt that the village library will, in the course of time, be an object of encouragement and support to our landed proprietors and clergy, and an object of natural interest and reasonable pride to our rural population.

It is to be hoped that the proprietors of our large manufactories may see the expediency of creating or promoting the formation of Libraries among their work-people. Such Libraries have been shown to exist at the factory of Lowell, and in other factories of the United States, with the best possible results. The responsibility, as well as the interest, of the master is concerned in the question. Nor is the statement made by Mr. George Dawson to be neglected: "There are some families now beginning to put libraries in their kitchens; that is a new sign of these later times; it is a thing which very few men think about, but it is what they ought to do."

Your Committee revert to the more general question. They have recognised in the establishment of Libraries, the general principles that they should be based on a firm and durable foundation; that they should be freely accessible to all the public; that they should be open during the evening; and that they should, as far as possible, be Lending Libraries. The last consideration is one of great importance. Many men, in order to derive the fullest advantage from books, must have them not only in their hands, but in their homes. A great Public Library ought, above all things, to teach the teachers; to supply with the best implements of education those who educate the people, whether in the pulpit, the school, or the press. The lending out of books, therefore, which is a general characteristic of foreign Libraries, should be an essential element in the formation of our own. Nor, to such classes as those we have just described, and to the labouring classes, is the opening of Libraries during the evening a point of less importance. Libraries are now closed during the very hours when the suspension of bodily labour or of business leaves leisure for the cultivation of the mind. It has, indeed, been objected that gas-lighting is indispensable, and that gas-lighting will spoil the books. Your Committee are of opinion not only that a powerful light, and a light not requiring to be moved about (like gas), is the fittest and the safest light for a Public Library; but that it is possible to obviate or prevent the noxious effect of gas upon the books. Mr. Imray, a gentleman generally conversant with this subject (and especially conversant with the mode of lighting the House of Commons), is decidedly of this opinion. It appears that Libraries in the United States (where they are always open in the evening) are lighted with gas without damage to the books. Precautions should be taken to secure every Library against fire. It is not, however, from the books (as is generally supposed) that the principal danger arises. Books, as they stand in a Library, are not easily burnt. Any one who attempted to burn an unopened book would find that he had undertaken no easy task. The principal danger of fire arises from the fittings and the furniture being of wood. Not only, therefore, should the building, if possible, be fire-proof, but the shelves and the furniture should be of iron. Whatever excess this might cause in the outlay, will be repaid in the safety of the books and the durability of the materials.

Your Committee cannot allow the important subject of CATALOGUES for Libraries to pass unnoticed. There is no doubt that every Library should have a printed Catalogue, and that all Catalogues should (as far as possible) be published for general consultation. A man may find great use in a printed Catalogue, without going into a Library. It shows him what he can procure, and where he can procure it. In this country our Libraries are inadequately supplied with printed Catalogues. Even the Catalogue of the University Library at Cambridge is not printed. Of all our Cathedral Libraries, only two appear to possess printed Catalogues. There seem to be no printed Catalogues of our old Parochial Libraries; and few in manuscript. Nor is it essential only that Catalogues

logues be printed and published. All new works should be rapidly entered-up in them. It would appear that this has not been done with requisite celerity at the British Museum. The consequence is, that a book which has been published three years may not be procurable, because it has not yet been entered in the Catalogue. The cause assigned is the want of a sufficient number of transcribers, which the Government, with the best economical intentions, but with very questionable economical results, has restricted. What may be the best form for a Catalogue, Your Committee do not feel themselves called on to decide. That subject, with all its details, will probably have been fully considered by the Commission appointed to inquire into the British Museum. But, so far as they have inquired, it appears to Your Committee that a Catalogue, classified as to subjects, with an alphabetical list of authors, would be the best. It is evident that, till good printed Catalogues exist, much time will be lost in the wearisome search for books, in every Library. Until a nation possesses a good system of Catalogues, it cannot know the extent of the literary wealth which it possesses. In all the great Libraries of Deposit, there should not only be a collection of all the Catalogues of Libraries existing in the country, but so far as possible, a collection of the Catalogues of all the Libraries in the world. A great Library should in fact contain within it a Library of Catalogues. On a subject of so much importance as the intellectual treasures of different countries, constant literary intercourse should be maintained; and there should be an international interchange of Catalogues.

Your Committee has, with great satisfaction, observed that a regular system of INTERNATIONAL INTERCHANGE OF BOOKS has been established between France and the United States of America; and also, though less extensively, between the United States and this country. They believe that such interchanges not only promote the advancement of literature, art, and science, but that they have also a strong tendency to increase the friendly understanding between nations, and to advance the general interests of humanity. Your Committee regret that more has not been done in this country to promote so important an object; and they desire to record their earnest hope that the Government (as well as the Literary Institutions of the country) may readily avail themselves of every opportunity to encourage it.

It was impossible that Your Committee could pass unnoticed the important influence which our FISCAL REGULATIONS, of various kinds, exercise on the issue and circulation of books. The duty levied on the importation of foreign books produces a trifling amount of revenue, about 8,000 *l.* a year; yet it is a grievous tax on knowledge, and an impediment to the formation of Libraries. It is stated by a competent Witness, Mr. Edwards, that "the tax on books in America amounts to 10 per cent., in Belgium to 3 per cent., in Austria to 2 per cent., in France to 1 per cent.; in most of the German States, in Holland, in Denmark and in Norway, books are imported duty free; while we have a more oppressive tax imposed upon us than exists in any other country." It appears that the want of foreign books is the great deficiency in our existing Libraries; yet we have increasing competition to contend with in the purchase of them; the Americans having entered the European market, and become (even for their private collections) large purchasers of books. It also seems that the Custom-house officers do not, and cannot, strictly enforce the collection of the duty. "There is a great evasion of the law. The Custom-house officers are quite unable to divide the books into those categories into which the law divides them. The consequence is that the whole is open to fraud." (3383.)—Another grave impediment to the more extensive circulation of books is to be found in the Paper duty. Your Committee do not find existing in the United States, or in any other country, such a duty; oppressive upon trade, interfering with labour, and restrictive of literature. In the United States, and in Belgium, and in many other countries, there exists no such duty as the Advertisement duty. Your Committee deem this another impediment to the extension of Libraries, and the circulation of books, as it is to trade and labour generally.

Your Committee cannot approach the conclusion of its Report, without expressing their thanks to the Witnesses, who have, many of them, given at once a valuable and a voluntary assistance to their labours. They desire, especially, to record their obligations to such eminent men as M. Guizot and M. Van de Weyer, who

Veneris, 27° *die Aprilis*, 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Ewart in the Chair.

Mr. Kershaw.
Mr. Mackinnon.
Mr. Thicknesse.
Mr. Bunbury.
Mr. Charteris.
Mr. Hamilton.
Sir John Walsh.
Mr. Milnes.

M. *Van de Weyer*, examined.

Mr. *John Webster*, examined.

Rev. *H. Christmas*, examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 1° *die Maii*, 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Ewart in the Chair.

Mr. Thicknesse.
Mr. Bunbury.
Mr. Hamilton.
Mr. Wylde.
Mr. Mackinnon.
Mr. Brotherton.
Sir John Walsh.
Mr. M. Milnes.
Sir H. Verney.
Mr. Charteris.

Reverend *Philip Hale*, examined.

Mr. *Richard Cogan*, examined.

Mr. *Thomas Jones*, examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Jovis, 3° *die Maii*, 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Ewart in the Chair.

Mr. Kershaw.
Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. G. A. Hamilton.
Mr. Thicknesse.
Sir H. Verney.
Mr. Charteris.
Mr. Wyld.
Lord Ebrington.
Mr. Disraeli.

Mr. G. *Dawson*, examined.

Reverend *W. R. Fremantle*, examined.

The *Solicitor-General for Scotland*, examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at One o'clock.

Martis, 8° *die Maii,* 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Ewart in the Chair.

Mr. Thicknesse.
Mr. Kershaw.
Mr. Brotherton.
Sir H. Verney.
Mr. Bunbury.
Mr. Wyld.
Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. *H. Stevens,* examined.

Mr. *J. W. Marsh,* examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Jovis, 10° *die Maii,* 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Ewart in the Chair.

Mr. Thicknesse.
Lord Ebrington.
Mr. Hamilton.
Mr. M. Milnes.
Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Charteris.
Mr. Kershaw.
Mr. Wyld.
Mr. Bunbury.
Mr. Disraeli.
Sir H. Verney.

Mr. *John C. Brown,* examined.

M. *Libri,* examined.

Mr. *Smiles,* examined.

The Rev. *Thomas Cradock,* examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 15° *die Maii,* 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Ewart in the Chair.

Sir H. Verney.
Mr. Hamilton.
Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Mackinnon.
Mr. Bunbury.
Mr. Thicknesse.
Mr. Wyld.

Rev. *H. Mackenzie,* examined.

Dr. *Meyer,* examined.

Rev. *J. J. Smith,* examined.

Mr. *J. B. Langley,* examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday, at Twelve o'clock.

Jovis, 17° *die Maii*, 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Ewart in the Chair.

Mr. Thicknesse.
Mr. Kershaw.
Mr. Hamilton.
Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Wyld.

Mr. *Eugene Curry*, examined.

Mr. *Richard Jones*, examined.

Mr. *Charles Cochran*, examined.

[Adjourned to Tuesday, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 22° *die Maii*, 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Ewart in the Chair.

Mr. Hamilton.
Sir H. Verney.
Mr. Kershaw.
Mr. Thicknesse.
Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Wyld.
Lord Ebrington.
Mr. Milnes.

Mr. *Brotherton*, a Member of the Committee, examined.

Mr. *W. Lovett*, examined.

Mr. *E. R. P. Colles*, examined.

Mr. *Eugene Curry*, further examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday, at Twelve o'clock.

Jovis, 24° *die Maii*, 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Ewart in the Chair.

Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Thicknesse.
Mr. Kershaw.
Lord Ebrington.
Mr. Wyld.
Mr. Charteris.

Mr. *S. W. Waley*, examined.

Mr. *J. Murray*, examined.

[Adjourned to Tuesday, June 5th, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 5° *die Junii*, 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Ewart in the Chair.

Mr. Kershaw.
Mr. Milnes.
Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Thicknesse.
Mr. Bunbury.
Lord Ebrington.
Mr. Wyld.
Sir H. Verney.
Sir J. Walsh.

Mr. *S. W. Waley*, further examined.

Mr. *Charles R. Weld*, examined.

Mr. *E. Edwards*, further examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday, 12th instant, at One o'clock.

Martis, 12° *die Junii,* 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. EWART in the Chair.

Mr. Thicknesse.
Sir H. Verney.
Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Kershaw.
Mr. Bunbury.
Mr. Hamilton.
Mr. Wyld.

Mr. *Brotherton,* a Member of the Committee, further examined.

Mr. *Hamilton,* a Member of the Committee, examined.

The Committee deliberated as to their proposed Report.

[Adjourned to July 10th, at One o'clock.

Martis, 10° *die Julii,* 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. BROTHERTON in the Chair.

Mr. Ewart.
Mr. Kershaw.
Mr. Wyld.
Mr. Bunbury.

Mr. *Ewart,* Chairman of the Committee, examined; put in letters from Mr. Edwards, Mr. Chambers, and Mr. Harkness.

[Adjourned to Thursday next, at One o'clock.

Jovis, 12° *die Julii,* 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. EWART in the Chair.

Mr. Thicknesse.
Mr. Kershaw.
Mr. Wyld.
Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Hamilton.

Draft Report read and considered: several amendments made.

Question, "That this be the Report of the Committee," put, and agreed to.

Ordered, To report the same, together with the Minutes of Evidence.

EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

NAME of WITNESS.	PROFESSION or CONDITION.	Place whence Summoned.	Date of Arrival.	Date of Discharge.	Total Number of Days in London.	Expenses of Journey to London and back.	Expenses in London.	TOTAL Expenses allowed to Witness.
						£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Thomas Jones -	Librarian, B. A. -	Manchester	30 April	1 May -	2	5 – –	2 2 –	7 2 –
John F. Marsh -	Solicitor - -	Warrington	7 May -	9 May -	2	4 4 –	4 4 –	8 8 –
John Crombie Brown	- - Presbyterian minister.	Edinburgh -	9 May -	11 May -	2	9 10 –	2 2 –	11 12 –
Rev. T. R. W. Cradock.	Clerk - -	Dublin -	9 May -	11 May -	2	7 10 –	2 2 –	9 12 –
John Baxter Langley	Surgeon - -	Stockport -	9 May -	15 May -	6	4 – –	12 12 –	16 12 –
Eugene Curry -	- - Royal Irish Academy.	Dublin -	15 May -	19 May -	4	6 15 –	4 4 –	10 19 –
Edward R. P. Colles.	Barrister - -	Dublin -	21 May -	23 May -	2	8 – –	9 9 –	17 9 –
George Dawson -	- - Dissenting minister.	Birmingham.	2 May -	4 May -	3	2 4 –	2 2 –	4 6 –
							£.	86 – –

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MINUTES

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Jovis, 19° *die Aprilis*, 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Kershaw.
Mr. Milnes.
Mr. Mackinnon.
Mr. Charteris.
Mr. Thicknesse.
Mr. Ewart.

WILLIAM EWART, Esq. in the Chair.

Edward Edwards, Esq., called in; and Examined.

E. Edwards, Esq.

19 April 1849.

1. *Chairman.*] I believe you are an Officer of the British Museum?—Yes; I am in the service of the Trustees.

2. In what capacity are you?—I am an Assistant in the Department of Printed Books, and have been so between 10 and 11 years.

3. Have you turned your attention particularly to the subject of public libraries?—I have, at intervals, during many years past.

4. Have you also published upon the subject?—I have, several times.

5. Has your attention been extended to libraries abroad as well as those in our own country?—Very much so.

6. Have you turned your attention to a comparison of the number and extent of the libraries accessible to the public in the principal states of Europe?—I have turned my attention to that subject, and have formed several lists of such libraries, as far as I have been able to acquire information respecting them.

7. In what respects do you think a statistical comparison of this kind is of value?—Of course, in order to an accurate comparison of the value of different libraries, you ought to know something of the character of the books contained in them respectively; but I think that even a mere comparison of the numbers has some relative value, especially if taken in connexion with their growth, so that you can compare what a library was, in point of extent, at one period, with what it has become at a later period.

8. Have you found it easy to acquire accurate data for such a comparison? —It is a matter of very considerable difficulty indeed; there are few subjects upon which looser and vaguer statements are to be found, even in statistical works of great repute, than upon that matter. In fact the difficulty is still greater with respect to English libraries than with respect to foreign; very little attention has been bestowed upon the statistics of libraries, either home or foreign, in this country, and I think there are but two ways in which anything like accurate information can be obtained, namely, either by practical familiarity with the libraries themselves, which it has not been in my power to attain to any great degree, or by correspondence, which latter I have carried on to a considerable extent. It is upon that I base most of the results at which I have arrived.

9. Have you visited many libraries in this country?—I have visited several in this country and some in France, but I have not seen any libraries out of this country and France.

10. How do you define the term "Public" as applied to libraries, in reference to this inquiry?—I would take it as embracing, first of all, libraries deriving their support from public funds, either wholly or in part; and I would further extend it to such libraries as are made accessible to the public to a greater or less degree.

E. Edwards, Esq.

19 April 1849.

11. Have we such libraries in this country?—There are a few such libraries.

12. Some supported by public funds and some contributed to by authors under the Copyright Act?—A very small number contributed to by the public funds, and but a small addition to that number in which access is given to the public.

13. What is the result of your comparison between the libraries of the Continent and those which exist in this country?—That nearly every European State is in a far higher position, both as to the number and extent of libraries accessible to the public, and, generally, as respects the accessibility of such libraries as do exist. There are some exceptions, but speaking generally, in both those respects, almost every European State is in a far higher position than this country.

14. Has that been so for a long period?—For a very considerable period.

15. For what period should you say?—One might go over a considerable period in this way,—taking the testimony of eminent English writers to the want of libraries, and the many instances there are in which eminent English authors speak of the paucity of libraries in this country compared with their extent and accessibility in foreign countries, complaining often that they have found the means of carrying on their literary studies to greater advantage when residing abroad than when residing in their own country.

16. Are you able at this moment to give the Committee any instances of such complaints on the part of English authors?—I remember a remarkable one of Gibbon, in the controversy which he was dragged into, upon the occasion of the publication of his great work. In answering the various attacks which had been made upon him for the imperfect citation of authorities, he says that he had constantly found the greatest difficulty in consulting books of which he had special need, from the want of a good public library, and that he was often obliged, at great expense and with great difficulty, to send for books from abroad; sometimes for large and expensive works, in order to verify a single citation. He says he found himself in a much better position when residing in Switzerland and in France than when residing in this country.

17. Do you recollect any other instances?—I have met with a great many, but I cannot at this moment call them to mind.

18. May we take the case of a man like Roscoe, when composing his Lorenzo de Medici, and his Life of Leo the Tenth; was there at that time any great public library, even in a large town like Liverpool, to which he could have access, for the purpose of consulting Italian authorities upon the subject?—I do not think there was such a library in all England, save in London and the two universities.

19. At that time was even the Library of the British Museum accessible in the way in which it is now?—By no means. It was a library, in the first place, very ill supplied in Roscoe's time, with that class of books which he and most historical writers would use, especially those writing upon foreign countries, and requiring access to large supplies of foreign literature.

20. Was not it, as compared with modern times and other countries, almost inaccessible?—It was very much restricted.

21. Do you happen to remember, in the works of Disraeli, the author of the "Curiosities of Literature," any passage in which he complains of the difficulties which beset an author at that time in getting access to the British Museum Library?—I remember a passage in a tract he wrote, in reply to Mr. Bolton Corney, in which he speaks of the period when he was engaged upon his "Curiosities of Literature," and says that it was often necessary at the British Museum to wait for some days before a book could be obtained; I should have thought, myself, that that was an exaggeration; but he is of course entitled to perfect credit, stating it distinctly as he does. Such an instance as that would prove that literary men in our own day have been at great disadvantage even in London.

22. At the same time contemporary authors on the continent had the advantage of public libraries, the use of which was not accessible to English authors?—To a great extent. There are numerous instances in the correspondence of Schiller and Körner, in which mention is made of the great advantage of the libraries which were accessible to Schiller and his contemporaries.

23. Do not you find, that whenever such authors undertook any great literary work, they seem first of all to have had recourse to a public library?—Yes; constantly.

E. Edwards, Esq.

19 April 1849.

24. That was about the time when Gibbon and Roscoe and other English authors were writing, who could have no such access to public libraries ?—Yes, it was somewhat later than Gibbon's time ; about the time of Roscoe.

25. Therefore you draw the inference that our literature has considerably suffered in comparison with that of the continent, from the want of public libraries ?—There is no doubt about it.

26. Can you give the Committee briefly, the general result of your investigation with respect to the number and extent of the public libraries which exist in France ?—I find in France there are at least 107 libraries strictly public, with an aggregate of nearly 4,000,000 volumes, all of which are open to the public very freely.

27. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Have you had any means of ascertaining the number of persons who avail themselves of those public libraries ?—It is not easy to state it in respect to foreign countries on account of the very freedom of their accessibility. The registration of visitors and students is generally a consequence of restriction. Of course, when persons must go through certain formalities to obtain admission, a register must be kept of them, but when the admission is unrestricted it is not very commonly the practice, I think, to record the visitors.

28. Have you any account of the number of the frequenters of such libraries ?—I do not recollect to have seen any very precise account of that nature in respect of foreign libraries.

29. *Chairman.*] Have you seen persons of all ranks in those libraries abroad ?—I have, frequently.

30. They seem to consider the privilege of entrance as a sort of public right ?—Quite so. In the enumeration which I gave in answer to a previous question, I have only taken an account of such libraries as contained 10,000 volumes, neglecting those of a smaller extent. If they were added, I should think they would amount to between 70 and 80 libraries of smaller extent than 10,000 volumes.

31. Mr. *Kershaw.*] Are the libraries in France composed chiefly of the higher classes of literature, or are there works in them adapted to the reading of the middle classes of society ?—As far as my personal observation has extended, I should say they were very general in their character. I am quite sure of this, that even in the libraries of small provincial towns you often meet with very remarkable works ; works of great rarity and value, such as one would hardly expect to find except in a great city.

32. *Chairman.*] With regard to Belgium, have you made any estimate of the number of public libraries ?—Taking the same limit, I find in Belgium 14 libraries, with an aggregate of 538,000 volumes.

33. Have you made any inquiries into the number of libraries in Prussia ?—In the Prussian states there are 44 libraries, with an aggregate of about 2,400,000 of volumes freely accessible to the public.

34. With respect to Austria what is the case ?—In the Austrian states, including Lombardy and Venice, there are 48 libraries, with an aggregate of about 2,400,000 volumes.

35. In Saxony how many are there ?—In Saxony there are six libraries, with 554,000 volumes, still taking those libraries only which have more than 10,000 volumes.

36. There are numerous other libraries in the small towns, are there not ?—Yes.

37. In Bavaria how many are there ?—In Bavaria there are 17 libraries, with 1,267,000 volumes.

38. In Denmark how many are there ?—Five, with 645,000 volumes.

39. How many in Tuscany ?—Nine, with 411,000 volumes.

40. Have you any data tending to show the relative extent of the libraries publicly accessible in each of the states you have mentioned as compared with the population ?—Taking the aggregate population of the cities containing the libraries, we have in France 129 volumes to every 100 inhabitants ; in Belgium, 95 ; in Prussia, 200 ; in Austria, 167 ; in Saxony, 417 ; in Bavaria, 339 ; in Denmark, 412 ; and in Tuscany, 261.

41. What have we in this country ?—I think about 53 volumes to every 100 inhabitants.

42. Taking the capital cities of those states, what do you find to be the number

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number and extent of their public libraries; for instance, beginning with Paris?—In Paris I find nine great libraries which are strictly public, supported entirely from public funds, with an aggregate of 1,474,000 volumes; four of those libraries have annual Parliamentary grants, amounting in the aggregate to 23,555*l.* a year. The town library of Paris is supported by municipal funds.

43. Can you give the Committee a list of those libraries in Paris?—I have a list here: the National Library, with 824,000 volumes; the Library of the Arsenal, with 180,000 volumes; the Sainte Génévieve Library, with 150,000 volumes; the Mazarine Library, with 100,000 volumes; that of the Institute, with about 80,000 volumes; the library of the Town Hall, with 55,000; that of the Sorbonne, with about 40,000; that of the Museum of Natural History, with 30,000; and that of the Ministry of the interior (made public last year), with 15,000 volumes. The Library National, the Library of the Institute, that of Sainte Génévieve, and the Mazarine Library, are all lending libraries; they are all open unrestrictedly. I believe the Library of Sainte Génévieve and that of the Institute are the only libraries which are at present open in the evening as well as in the morning.

44. Is not the Library of the Arsenal open in the evening?—I think not.

45. Are they all lending libraries?—All the libraries which I have named are lending libraries, except that of the Arsenal, and that, I believe, is so, only more restrictedly, as it requires a very special introduction in order to borrow books from it.

46. How do you define a lending library?—I would define a lending library to be one, the books of which are to be borrowed, not as matter of favour, but as matter of right, upon complying with certain recognized conditions.

47. Do you know what the recognized conditions are in Paris?—I believe in Paris it is necessary to produce some sort of recommendation or introduction vouching for the reputability of the party applying to borrow books, but such recommendations are obtained to a very considerable extent, and are obtained easily. It has been said too easily, and complaint has been made that the privilege has been abused sometimes.

48. With respect to the accessibility of the libraries in Paris, may any person go into a public library and ask for a book?—Yes; with respect to the four chief libraries that is the case, there is no restriction at all.

49. That is generally the case on the continent, is not it?—I think very generally indeed.

50. Into what libraries in England can you enter and ask for a book and be supplied with it without stating who you are?—I believe there is only one such library, which is Chetham's Library at Manchester. I believe that is the only library where there is avowedly no restriction upon admission. In practice, however, Archbishop Marsh's library at Dublin is just as accessible.

51. Pursuing your statement as to the continental cities, how many public libraries are there in Brussels?—Brussels has two, the Royal Library and the Parochial library, with an aggregate of 143,500 volumes.

52. On what terms are they accessible?—I believe the principal library at Brussels is accessible, like the great libraries of Paris, unrestrictedly.

53. Both of them?—I cannot speak as to the second; it is a small library; but as to the Royal Library at Brussels, that is unrestrictedly free.

54. Are they lending libraries?—The Brussels Royal Library is a lending library.

55. Do you know whether either of the Brussels Libraries is open in the evening?—I cannot speak to that.

56. How many libraries are there in Berlin?—In Berlin there are two: the Royal Library with 480,000 volumes, and the University Library with 50,000.

57. How far are they accessible?—The Berlin Library is unrestrictedly free.

58. Are they both lending libraries?—Only the Royal Library; the University Library is not a public lending library, but is so for its own members.

59. What is the case with respect to the libraries at Vienna?—There are three public libraries at Vienna, with 453,000 volumes; the Imperial Library with 313,000 volumes; the University Library with 115,000 volumes; and the

Archduke Charles's Library, which is quite public, but as a matter of favour, with 25,000 volumes.

60. How many libraries are there in Milan?—There are two in Milan, the Brera Library, of 170,000 volumes, and the Ambrosian Library, of 60,000 volumes.

61. How far are they accessible?—They are both open freely.

62. To foreigners as well as natives?—Yes.

63. Are those libraries so open as that any countryman even, however dressed, on coming and applying for a book, would have one given to him?—I could not go so far as to speak to that. I have looked at the official regulations, and I find no restrictions as to the recognized right of admission to all persons. I think, generally speaking, that is the case in 20 out of every 25 of the continental libraries.

64. There is no respect of persons at all?—I think not.

65. Are the Milanese libraries lending libraries?—The larger one—that is, the Brera Library—is so.

66. They are only open in the day, are they?—Only in the day.

67. How many libraries are there in Dresden?—Four, which are strictly public: the Royal Library, with 300,000 volumes; the Secundogenitur Library, with 30,000 volumes; the Library of the Economical Society, with 7,500; and the Library of the Polytechnic Institute, with 3,000; giving a total of 340,500.

68. Are those libraries accessible freely?—All of them.

69. Every one of them?—I think with the exception of the second they are. To the second an introductory letter of some kind is required, I believe.

70. Are they any of them lending libraries?—Three out of the four are lending libraries.

71. Do you know what are the conditions upon which books are lent out?—Some introduction is required to vouch for the respectability of the borrower, but such introductions are given very freely.

72. After a person has read in the library some time, and after his residence is once known in the town, is there any difficulty in his procuring books?—I think not, if he is a person of good repute. Generally I should say that the chief condition imposed with respect to lending books is their return within a specific period. The shortest period I have noticed is a fortnight, and the longest six months. In Berlin I think books are allowed to be kept six months. That is probably quite a mistake, because so long a term would often impose upon those who go to the library to seek for works the disappointment of finding them absent, and of finding them absent, perhaps, during a succession of visits.

73. How many libraries are there in Munich?—There are two, the Royal Library, with 600,000 volumes, and the University Library, with 200,000 volumes. I ought to say that these numbers have been questioned, but I had an account of the former library from the chief librarian the other day, in which he repeats the statement, so that I suppose it is accurate.

74. Are those libraries open to every one?—The first regulation of the Royal Library of Munich is, that the admission to it is freely open for literary and scientific purposes, but not for reading for mere amusement. The University Library is not freely open; it requires an introduction either from a professor of the university, or some person of known standing in Munich.

75. Is there no library in Munich into which a stranger might enter for the purpose of reading?—I do not believe that the limitation is really enforced, though I have quoted it from an official publication.

76. You think that any person can have free access to the library?—I think so; I think the restriction is a mere assertion of the principle that persons who frequent so magnificent a library as that ought to have some serious purpose in coming.

77. Which of the libraries at Munich is a lending library?—They are both lending libraries, but the Royal Library more unrestrictedly than the other; the University Library is a lending library to the professors and members of the University itself.

78. Neither of them is open at night?—No, I think it is quite an unusual thing for a continental library to be open at night; although I am glad to learn that the exceptions are increasing.

79. How many libraries are there in Copenhagen?—There are three; the Royal

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Royal Library, with 412,000 volumes; the University Library, with 110,000; and Classen's Library, with 35,000.

80. Are those entirely accessible to the public?—In Copenhagen I think the principle generally is, at least as regards two out of the three libraries, to require some sort of introduction, but I believe there is not much difficulty practically in obtaining those introductions.

81. Are they lending libraries?—All are lending libraries.

82. How many libraries are there in Florence?—In Florence there are six which are accessible to the public.

83. What are the names of them?—The Magliabechian, with 150,000 volumes; the Palatine, with 80,000; the Marucellian, with 45,000; the Riccardian, with 23,000; the Library of Fine Arts, with 11,000; and the Laurentian Library, which is a manuscript library of 9,000 volumes.

84. Are those libraries accessible without introduction?—I think to some of them an introduction is required.

85. Not to the Magliabechian?—No, nor to the Brera Library, but I think to three out of the six.

86. To the Laurentian an introduction is required, being a library of manuscripts?—Yes.

Vide Appendix.

87. Can you furnish the Committee with a general list of the public libraries in Europe?—I can. (*The same was delivered in.*)

88. Have you endeavoured to make that list as accurate as you can?—I have.

89. Have you given your authorities?—I have.

90. At the same time it is a very difficult task to arrive at accuracy, is it not?—Yes. I can only put it in as an approximate list; but it is the best list I have been able to construct, after reference to all the printed materials which I can get at, and very extensive correspondence. I have addressed circulars, with questions, to the librarians, as well as to literary friends, and have obtained answers from a great many of them.

91. How many of the libraries you have named do you consider to be lending libraries?—Six Paris libraries, three Dresden libraries, three at Copenhagen, the Royal libraries at Brussels, Berlin, Munich, and Vienna, and the Brera Library at Milan.

92. On what condition are the books lent out?—I believe in every instance either a certain social position, or some introduction satisfactory to the librarian is required on the part of the borrowers.

93. Have you turned your attention to the number of public libraries existing in the United States of America?—I have done so, and have a general statement, which I believe to be very near the truth. I find 81 libraries, containing 5,000 volumes and upwards, with an aggregate of 980,000 volumes. Of those libraries, Boston contains six with 69,000 volumes; New York seven, with 109,000 volumes; Philadelphia nine, with 122,000 volumes.

94. How may those libraries be classed?—Forty-nine of them are university and college libraries; about 20 are libraries of learned societies or corporate bodies, but are, as I am assured, practically public by the liberal regulations under which they are administered.

95. Do you mean that they are as accessible as those on the continent of Europe?—I can only speak from information upon that point, but they are represented to me, by those who have visited a great many of them, as being very accessible, and that although corporate property, they are made practically as accessible as if they were public property.

96. Are any of them open at night for the sake of the middle and working classes?—Upon that point I have no information; but I think they are usually not open in the evening.

97. Are any of them lending libraries?—I think the university libraries are generally lending libraries for those belonging to the universities, and the libraries which belong to corporations or learned societies are lending libraries for the members of those societies, and for persons introduced by the members. The State libraries are lending libraries for all persons bringing satisfactory introductions.

98. Is much attention paid by the Legislatures of the United States of America to the maintenance and improvement of those libraries?—Very great attention;

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attention; a great impulse has been given to it by some very liberal foundations and bequests which have been made, such as that by the late Stephen Girard of Philadelphia. Mr. John Jacob Astor has also founded a library at New York, upon a very large scale indeed.

99. Is there not also a Smithsonian Library?—Yes, that was founded by the bequest of an Englishman to the President and Congress of the United States. A very large sum was bequeathed by Mr. Smithson, and the general direction given in his will was, that it should be for the advancement of knowledge among men, and then he specifies that a general library shall be formed; that that shall be one of the objects. This Smithsonian Institute is about to print an admirable catalogue of all the works extant on the early history and antiquities of America.

100. Was not the Harvard University Library very much assisted by donation?—Yes, it was founded originally by Mr. Harvard, a liberal benefactor to the university, in 1638. The library of Yale College was founded in 1700. And I may mention upon this subject that there is a graphic little passage in one of the local historians of Connecticut, in which he describes the commencement of Yale College, which is a very eminent institution in Connecticut; he says seven or eight of the pastors of that day came down with some venerable folios, scholastic and theological, and holding them in their hands, said, We give these books to be the commencement of a college in Connecticut; so that actually that collection of books was the first step taken in founding the college.

101. Do not you think that if libraries were accessible and made a matter of public interest, many persons would be induced to bequeath books to such public libraries?—I think there is very great evidence of that in what has been done, both for the British Museum and for the Bodleian Library.

102. Mr. *Kershaw.*] Can you state generally in what manner the libraries in the United States have been founded, and can you also state how they are supported afterwards, the foundation having been obtained?—What are called the State Libraries, such as those which exist in New York, in Philadelphia, in Boston, and in Washington, are supported by legislative grants; the University libraries are supported from the general university funds,—partly, I think, by graduation fees, and partly by donation.

103. *Chairman.*] By legislative grants you mean grants by the particular states?—By the particular states.

104. There is no vote for libraries passed by Congress, is there?—There is one for a library at Washington, which is called the Congress Library.

105. Among the libraries of the continent as well as those of the United States that you have gone through, what libraries are supported by the State; what libraries by a vote of any constitutional assembly, and what libraries by the municipalities?—I can answer that question with respect to seven or eight of the capitals: the average annual sum allotted by votes of the Chambers to the support of the National Library at Paris is 16,575 *l.*; to that of the Arsenal Library, 1,790 *l.*; to that of Ste. Génévieve 3,400 *l.*; to that of the Mazarine 1,790 *l.*; making, for the four chief libraries of Paris, 23,555 *l.* yearly.

106. Are there any other votes of the French Assembly devoted to provincial libraries?—I believe the provincial libraries of France are usually supported by provincial and municipal funds, but that sometimes the necessity for special grants, arising out of peculiar circumstances, being represented to the Minister of Public Instruction, sums are allotted in aid of the provincial funds. The average annual sum allotted for the support of the Royal Library at Brussels, is 2,700 *l.*; for that of Munich, about 2,000 *l.*

107. Are the provincial libraries in Belgium supported by the State?—The principal provincial libraries in Belgium are university libraries, which are supported by the university funds.

108. Are any of the provincial libraries in Munich supported by a vote of the National Assembly there?—I believe those libraries are chiefly supported by the municipalities. I proceed with the libraries of the capitals: there is allotted to the Imperial Library of Vienna 1,900 *l.* a year.

109. That has hitherto proceeded from the Imperial Government, has it?—It has. To the Library of Berlin, 1,460 *l.* is allotted; to that of Copenhagen, 1,250 *l.*; and to the Grand Duke's Library at Darmstadt, 2,500 *l.*

110. How far are the provincial libraries supported by the municipalities?

—I believe that it is the general rule, that they are supported by municipal and in some instances by communal funds.

111. Have many of those been established out of the ruins of the old monasteries, or the confiscated property of monasteries?—That is very much the case with libraries, both in many of the states of Germany and in France.

112. Do they ever levy a rate upon a town for the support of a public library?—That obtains in many of the German states, I believe; but I have not information to enable me to state precisely to what extent.

113. Mr. *Charteris.*] You have mentioned that a good many of those foreign libraries are lending libraries; have you known instances of any that were lending libraries having ceased to be so in consequence of the abuse of the privilege on the part of those who have taken books out to read?—I do not know any instance of that kind; I know that very great complaint has been made in several cities of such abuses, but I think they have occurred in consequence of inadequate regulations, and might have been obviated by better management.

114. You stated that some recommendation from some person in authority is necessary, in order to obtain the privilege of taking books out of the library; is there any difficulty in obtaining such a recommendation?—I believe, generally speaking, it is very easy to do so.

115. Is such a privilege open to the humblest class?—No; I think there must be some sort of assurance of responsibility, so that if loss occur the person borrowing may be able to repair that loss in some degree; that if it is a book which is replaceable he should be able to supply its place, and I think that is a very reasonable condition.

116. Mr. *Kershaw.*] Are the libraries on the continent visited by large numbers of the middle and working classes?—I believe in France they are to a considerable extent; there are libraries in France of every grade and class; in Paris itself each of the libraries, I believe, may be said to have a distinct class of visitors; one sort of visitors resort to one library, and one to another; the Ste. Génévieve Library in particular has been noticed for the considerable number of persons of the humbler classes who frequent it; the fact of its being open in the evening is calculated to produce that result.

117. *Chairman.*] Have you maps showing the relative position of the libraries in the different cities of the Continent of Europe?—I have. (*The Witness delivered in the same.*)

118. With regard to other libraries in France, do you know what has become of the library which is now called the Fontainebleau Library?—I believe it has been of late public by permission of the late King, but it is actually now in the Royal Palace.

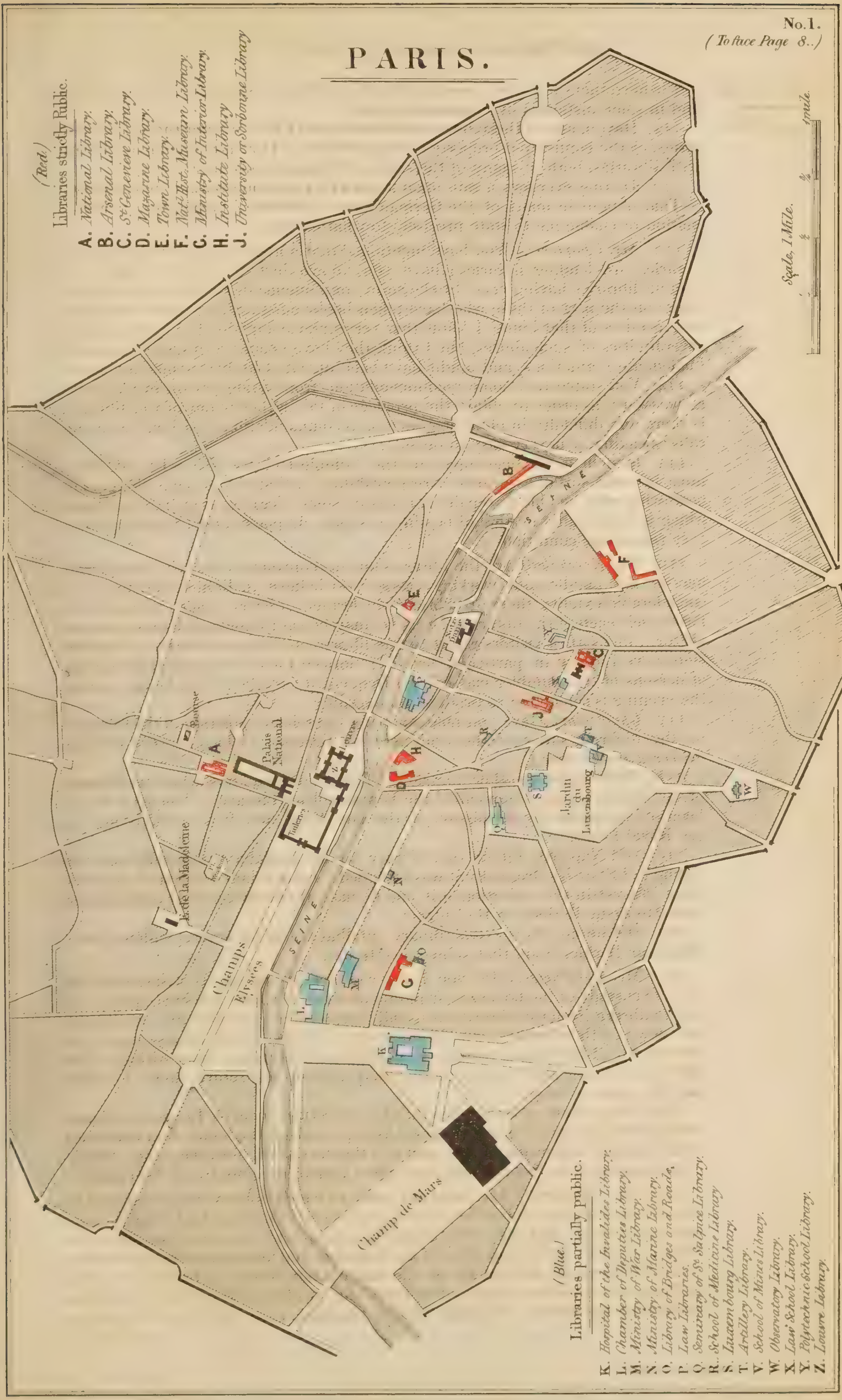
119. Did Napoleon intend that library to be available principally for the Council of State?—Originally it was intended for the Council of State; he took great interest in the collection of it, and he has left considerable correspondence with Monsieur Barbier on the subject.

120. Did he not show extraordinary intelligence in his correspondence with Monsieur Barbier upon that subject?—He did.

121. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Do you know whether any person is responsible for the safe custody of the books in the public libraries of which you have spoken?—In the library itself the librarian is usually responsible, but there are regulations laid down with respect to the lending out of books, which impose upon the borrower, as I mentioned before, the condition of returning them within a specified period, and they go on to say, that if he do not return them, he must pay the value of them.

122. Who would attend to see that he did return them?—In every instance with which I am acquainted a register is kept, stating the names and addresses of the persons borrowing books; and it is the duty of the librarian, upon failure of the return of any book within a specified period, to apply to the borrower.

123. Mr. *Charteris.*] Are there any cases in which borrowers are required to deposit any security?—I believe there are several cases in which that is done, but I should say that they were rather the exceptions than the rule; the rule, I think, is to trust to the position of the borrower and his assumed respectability, or to the character and weight of the introduction which he brings with him. In Paris very great loss has resulted from the insufficiency of the regulations respecting the return of books, and it has been a matter of notoriety that a considerable



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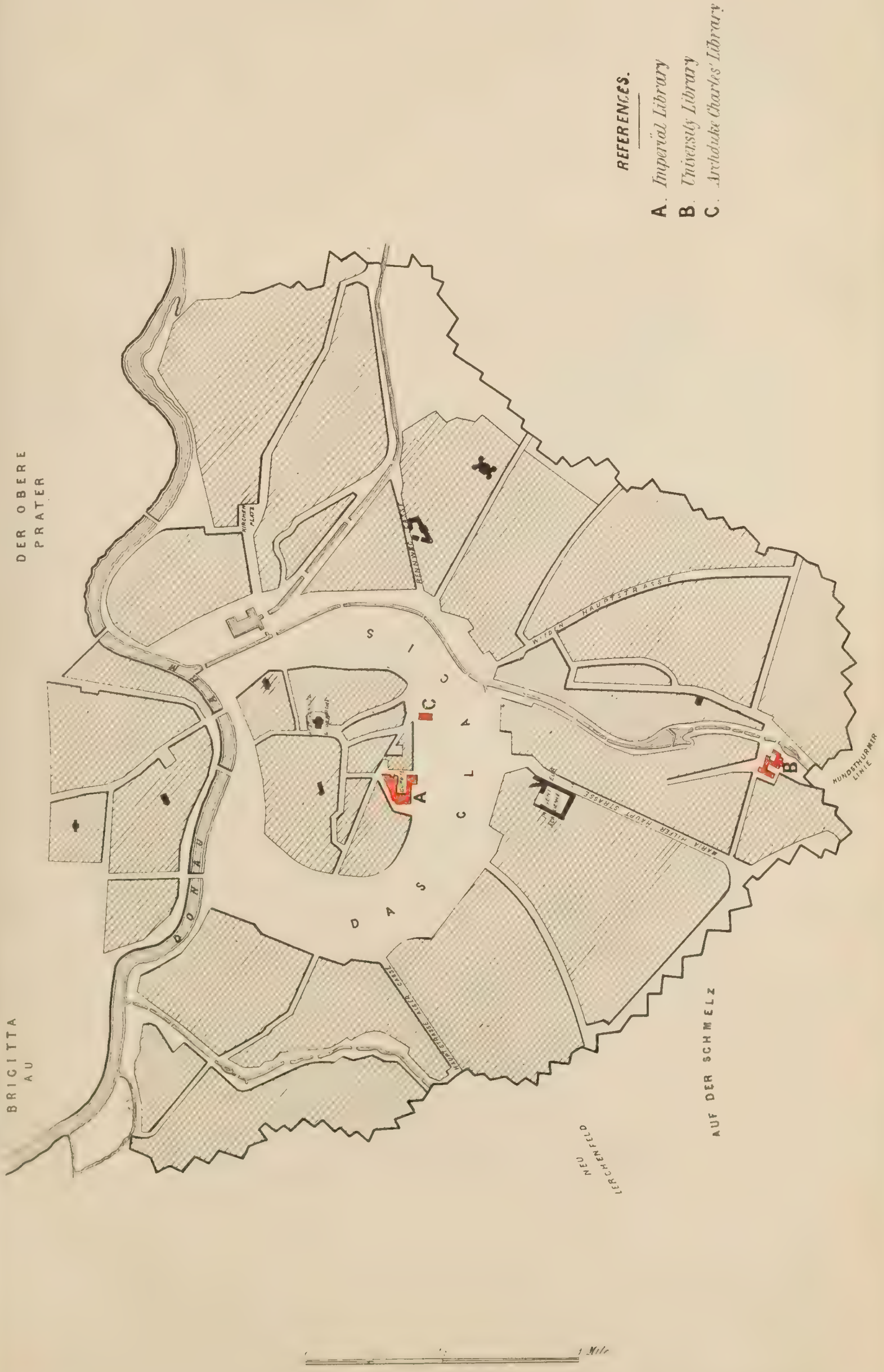
VIENNA.



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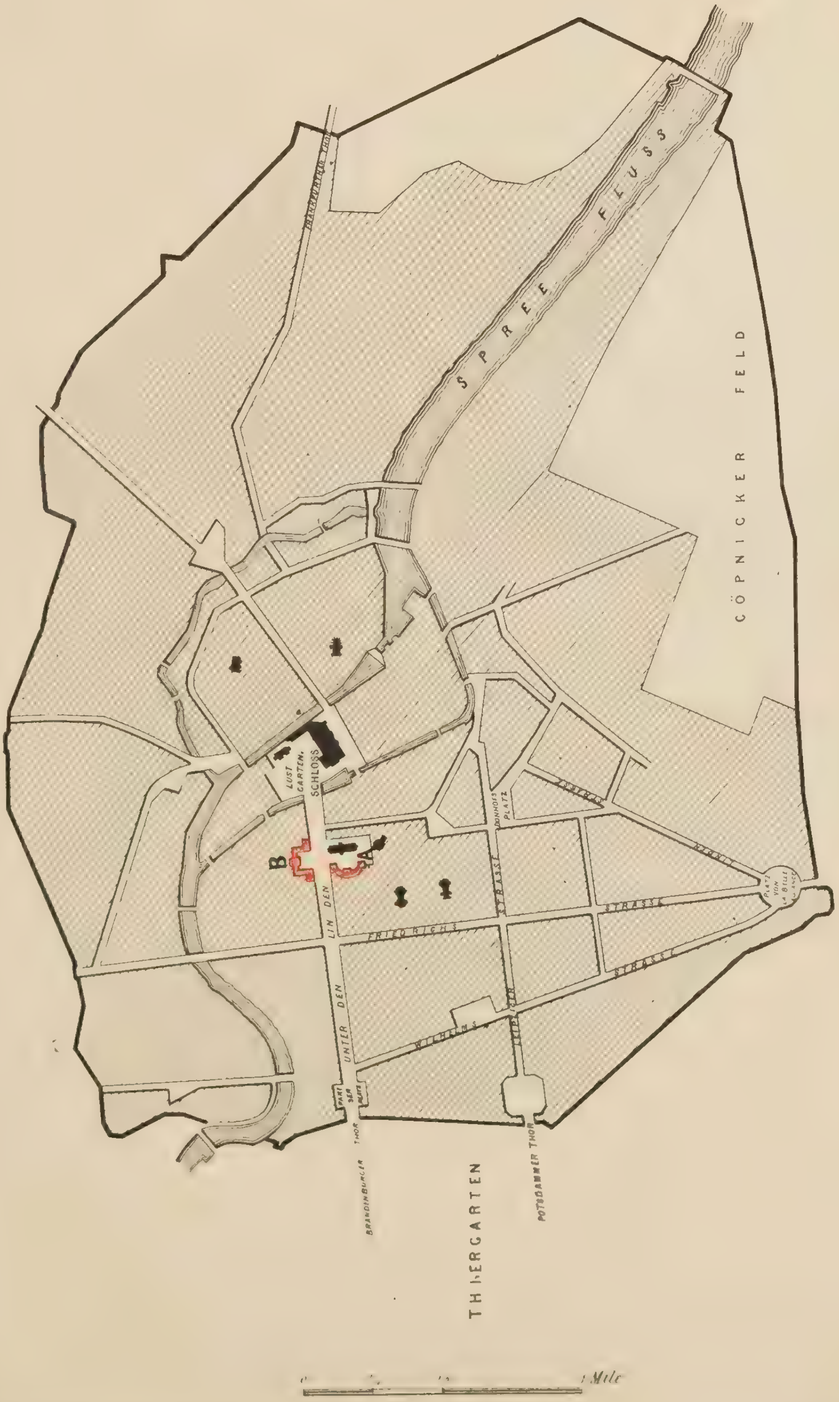
BERLIN.



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DRESDEN.

REFERENCES.

A. *Royal Library.*

B. *Secundogenitur Library.*

C. *Economical Society's Library.*

D. *Polytechnic Institute Library.*

Scale 0 ¼ ½ *Mile.*

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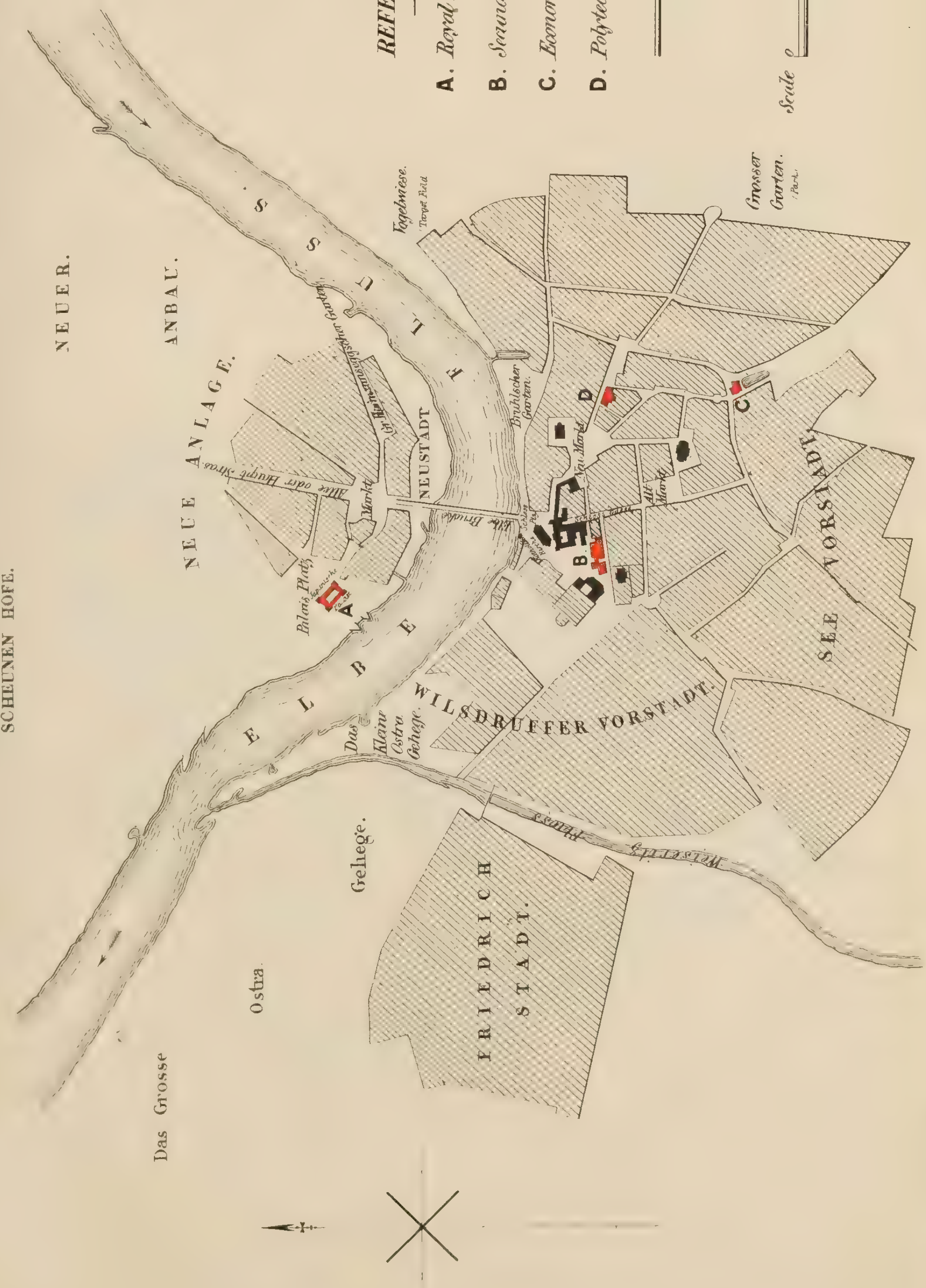

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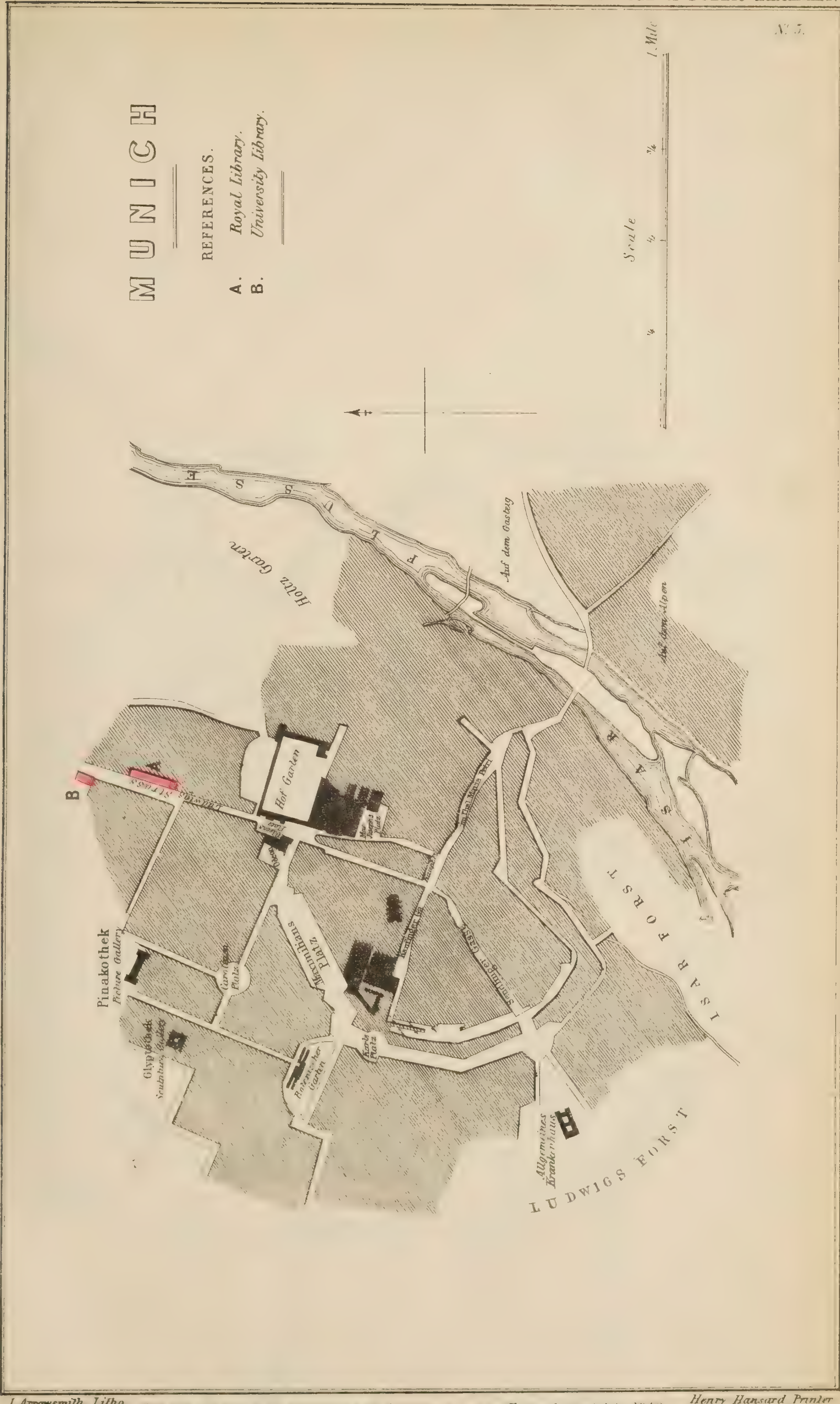

MUNICH

REFERENCES.

A. *Royal Library.*
B. *University Library.*

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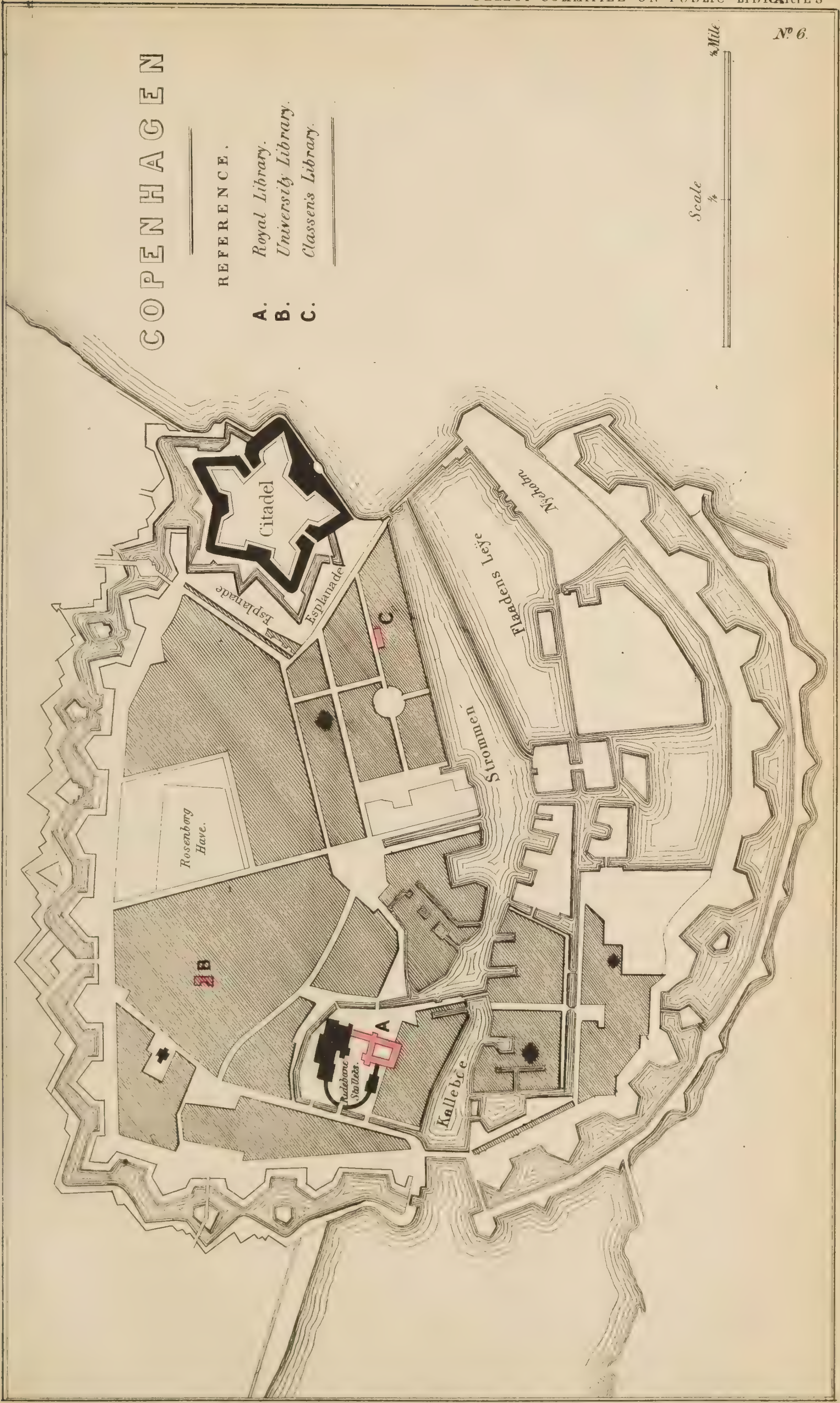

COPENHAGEN

REFERENCE.

A. *Royal Library.*
B. *University Library.*
C. *Classen's Library.*

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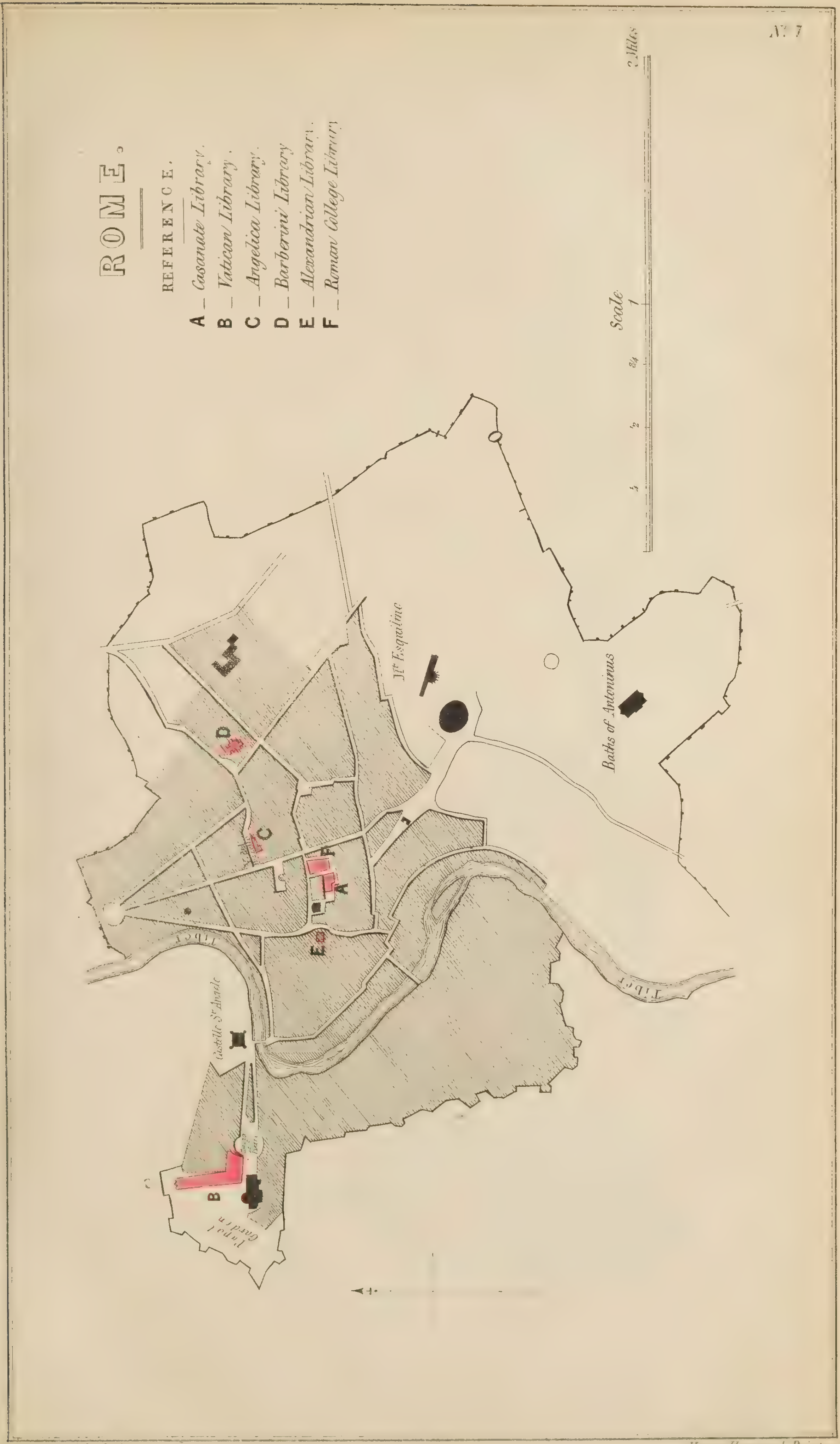

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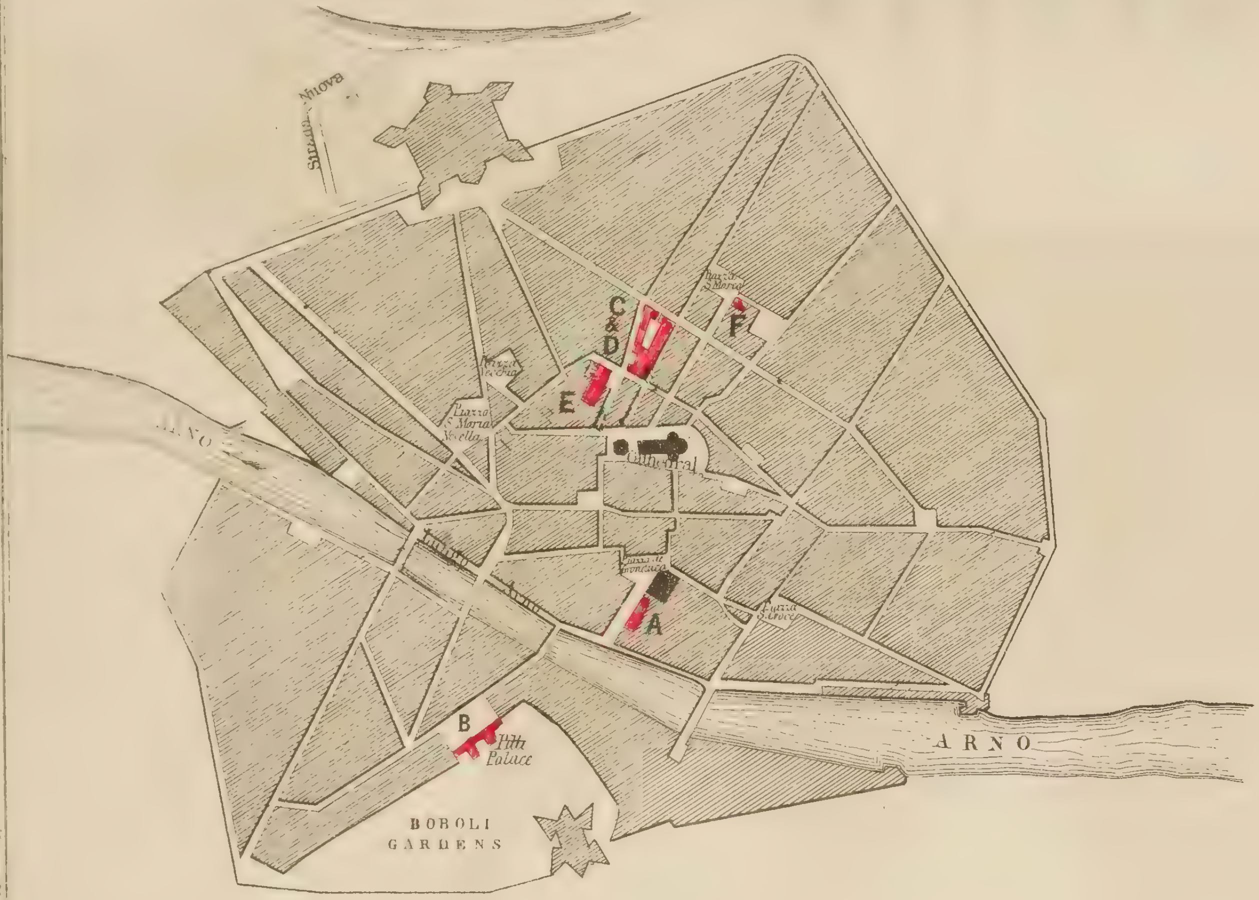

FLORENCE.

REFERENCE.

A. _ Maglabecchian Library.
B. _ Palatine Library.
C. _ Marucellian Library.
D. _ Ricardian Library.
E. _ Laurentian Library.
F. _ Library of the Fine Arts.

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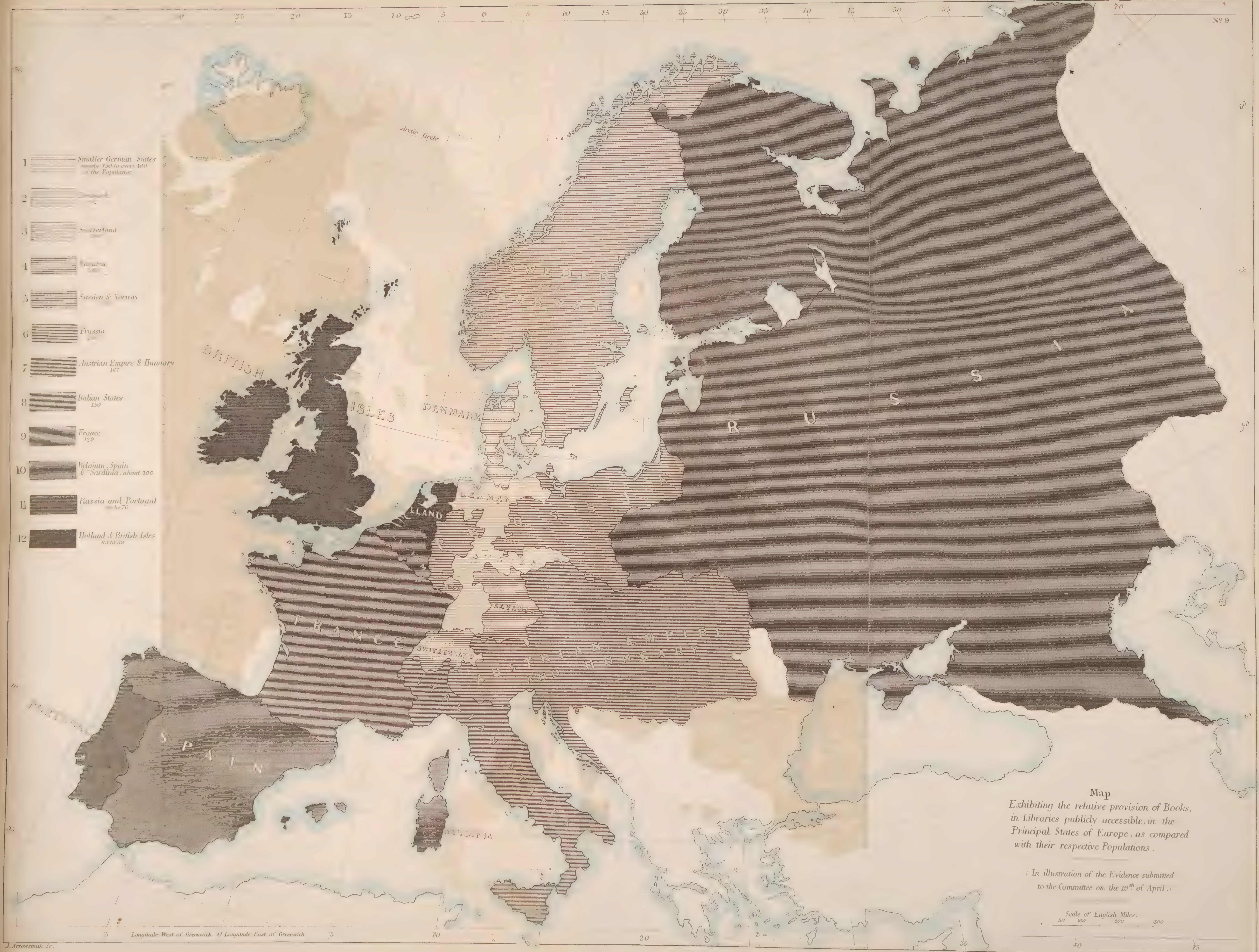
1 Smaller German States nearly 150 to every 100 of the Population
2 Denmark
3 Switzerland
4 Bavaria
5 Sweden & Norway
6 Prussia
7 Austrian Empire & Hungary 167
8 Italian States 150
9 France 129
10 Belgium, Spain & Sardinia, about 100
11 Russia and Portugal to 76
12 Holland & British Isles 63 to 53
Arctic Circle
BRITISH ISLES
DENMARK
SWEDEN AND NORWAY
RUSSIA
PRUSSIA
HOLLAND
BELGIUM
GERMAN STATES
BAVARIA
FRANCE
SWITZERLAND
AUSTRIAN EMPIRE AND HUNGARY
ITALIAN STATES
SARDINIA
SPAIN
PORTUGAL
Longitude West of Greenwich 0 Longitude East of Greenwich
Scale of English Miles.
50 100 200 300

Map

Exhibiting the relative provision of Books, in Libraries publicly accessible, in the Principal States of Europe, as compared with their respective Populations.

(In illustration of the Evidence submitted to the Committee on the 19th of April.)

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considerable number of books upon one subject have been absent from the library even for years without being returned, to the great inconvenience of those who came to the library itself to refer to them.

124. *Chairman.*] In those towns in which libraries are supported by the municipality can you inform the Committee how the funds are raised, whether by a library rate or from the general municipal funds?—I think generally, from the municipal funds, but I think the practice of levying a rate obtains in some of the German states and in the United States of America. I will give more precise information as to that point upon another occasion.

125. Mr. *Kershaw.*] Are you acquainted with the regulations which are adopted as to the admission of books into or their exclusion from foreign libraries?—I am not in possession of any particular information upon that head, but I think the general rule is to leave the selection of books for admission to the library very much to the librarian; I think that is generally the practice.

126. Mr. *Brotherton.*] In what body is the property usually vested; is it in trustees, or is it with the government?—Generally, I should say, in the capital cities of most of the European states, the libraries belong to the state; for example, the National Library of Paris is the property of the nation, but in provincial towns, generally speaking, the libraries are the property of the municipalities respectively; I think that is the general rule.

127. *Chairman.*] With regard to foreign libraries, how far are the libraries, metropolitan and provincial, submitted to the inspection of the Minister of Public Instruction?—With respect to France, the usual practice is that reports are periodically addressed to the Minister of Public Instruction, and supervision is exercised over the provincial libraries by inspectors; in France there are inspectors-general of libraries, who make occasional visits to the provincial libraries and report to the Minister of Public Instruction.

128. In fact there is a more centralized system than would be probably compatible with the usages of this country?—Very much more so.

129. What libraries in France have been the result of private foundations? —I should say that a great number of the libraries in France existing at present have resulted from the dissolution of the monastic establishments at the end of the last century, and the appropriation of the monastic libraries generally to the formation of town libraries, in localities where formerly monasteries were situated. That has been the foundation of a very large number of the French libraries, I think; there have been several private foundations in addition to those, but very often private foundations have merged in the communal or town libraries which have been so formed. Of the Paris libraries, the Mazarine Library, and that of the Arsenal, the Library of the Institute, and that of the Court of Cassation (formerly part of the old library of the Faculty of Advocates), are of private foundation; as are many provincial libraries; for example, the fine libraries of Bordeaux, Carpentras, and Strasburgh. The last named library is open in the evening, and is excellently managed. That of Grenoble was founded by a public subscription.

130. *Chairman.*] Turning from foreign libraries to the libraries in our own country, what do you believe to be the number of libraries publicly accessible within the United Kingdom?—In respect to this country, there is great difficulty in drawing the line with precision as to what is really a publicly accessible library, and what is only accessible as a matter of mere grace and favour; therefore I have included some in my estimate, the admission to which is only to be considered as a favour, but is practically accorded to some considerable extent. With that prefatory observation, I find about 33 libraries, more or less publicly accessible in Great Britain and Ireland, with an aggregate of 1,771,493 volumes of printed books. The following are the particulars of those libraries:

(A.)—APPROXIMATE

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(A.)—APPROXIMATE Tabular View of the principal PUBLIC LIBRARIES of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*.

	Population.	Volumes of Printed Books in 1848.	Volumes of Manuscripts.
I. Aberdeen	64,778		
1. King's College Library	- - -	34,000	
2. Marischal College Library	- - -	12,000	
TOTAL	- - -	46,000	
II. Armagh	10,500		
Primate Robinson's Library	- - -	12,000	
III. Cambridge	25,000		
1. Public Library	- - -	166,724	3,163
2. Queen's College Library	- - -	35,000	—
3. Trinity College	- - -	30,000	—
4. Catherine's Hall	- - -	20,000	—
5. Christ's College	- - -	10,000	—
TOTAL	- - -	261,724	3,163
IV. Dublin	238,513		
1. Trinity College Library	- - -	104,239	1,512
2. Marsh's Library (St. Patrick's)	- - -	17,600	199
3. Dublin Society Library	- - -	12,000	20
4. Royal Irish Academy Library	- - -	9,815	459
TOTAL	- - -	143,654	2,190
5. King's Inns Library	- - -	31,000 ?	150 ?
V. Edinburgh	138,182		
1. Library of Faculty of Advocates	- - -	148,000	2,000
2. University Library	- - -	90,854	310
3. Library of Writers to Signet	- - -	50,000	—
TOTAL	- - -	288,854	2,310
VI. Glasgow	300,000		
1. University Library	- - -	58,096	242
2. Hunterian Museum Library	- - -	12,000	—
3. Stirling's Library	- - -	10,000	—
TOTAL	- - -	80,096	242
VII. London	2,000,000		
1. British Museum Library	- - -	435,000	31,000
2. Sion College Library	- - -	35,500	—
3. Dr. Williams's Library	- - -	17,000	—
4. Archbishop Tenison's Library	- - -	3,000	—
TOTAL	- - -	490,500	31,000
7. Lambeth Palace Library	- - -	24,000	1,400

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	Population.	Volumes of Printed Books in 1848.	Volumes of Manuscripts.
VIII. Manchester - - - - - - -	360,000		
Chetham Library - - - - -	- - -	19,900	100
IX. Oxford - - - - - - - - -	24,000		
1. Bodleian Library - - - - -	- - -	220,000	21,000
2. All Saints' College - - - - -	- - -	50,000	—
3. Christ's Church College - - - -	- - -	30,000	—
4. Radcliffe Library - - - - -	- - -	—	—
5. Ashmolean Library - - - - -	- - -	30,000	—
6. Queen's College - - - - -	- - -	18,000	—
7. Oriel College - - - - -	- - -	15,000	—
8. Wadham College - - - - -	- - -	10,000	—
Total - - -	- - -	373,000	21,000
X. St. Andrew's - - - - - - -	3,766		
University Library - - - - -	- - -	51,265	63
XI. Warrington Public Library - - - -	- - -	4,500	—
Approximate Aggregate Total - - -	- - -	1,771,493	60,042

131. Can you assign any reason for the comparative fewness of public libraries in this country as compared with many other countries?—I think one reason which may be assigned is, that while in foreign countries the libraries of monastic foundation were generally appropriated to the public use, in this country they were for the most part destroyed, or injured to a very considerable extent. Proofs of that will be found in Leland's Collectanea. Perambulating England a few years after the dissolution of monasteries, he frequently speaks of the destruction of valuable books; he says, in reference to one town he visited, the bakers' ovens were still supplied with monastic books. That, however, will account for the fact only in a limited degree. Another reason of the fewness of public libraries in this country has been the isolation of such bequests or foundations of libraries as have occurred. They have been left without any sort of general control or supervision, and for want of that I think they have not been so fruitful in leading to imitation as they would have been if brought under some more direct administration. In proof of that statement I would instance the foundation of the Cotton Library. For the first 60 years after the institution of the Cotton Library for public use, there was but one addition made to it, by Major Arthur Edwards. That was the only instance during 60 years. During that time the Cotton Library was very ill cared for; it was ill-lodged, several times moved, dilapidated, and very much injured by fire on one occasion, and suffered greatly from want of attention and good management; but, on the Cotton Library being incorporated with the British Museum, during the next 60 years following that incorporation, there were not less than eight or nine important collections bequeathed or presented in addition to that collection.

132. You mean that the Cotton Library formed a nucleus round which other collections of books were gathered?—Yes.

133. Therefore you infer that if there were a place for books to be deposited, and means provided for their being properly cared for, donors would very freely give books?—Yes; I think I have mentioned a very clear proof of the assertion, that one donation brings another, especially if the books be well cared for. At present, of the whole contents of the British Museum at least 180,000 volumes have been presents or bequests.

134. More than half of the British Museum Library?—Nearly one-half.

135. As soon as the Cotton Library became part of the British Museum, donors immediately took the hint and supplied books?—Yes; there had been

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a public library in London for 60 years previously, and there was only one single addition made to it; during the next 60 years it was well lodged and rendered accessible, and then a great many additions were made to it.

136. Mr. *Brotherton.*] The names of the donors were published, were not they?—Yes.

137. *Chairman.*] Do you think it very important that a record should exist in the library of those who have contributed books?—Yes.

138. Sir Hans Sloane was the first founder of the library in the British Museum, was not he, and the Cotton Library was afterwards added to his?—Yes; but the Cotton Library had been made public in 1700, and Sir Hans Sloane's bequest took effect in 1757.

139. You think that one of the advantages of a library which is well known to be public, is that it invites public contributions?—Yes; I think experience shows that to a remarkable extent.

140. Is there any other cause which you can assign for the fewness of public libraries in this country?—Yes; the little attention which has been bestowed on the part of the Government or the Legislature to such matters is another cause. It is only within a very few years that Parliamentary grants in aid of education and literature have been at all prominent in the Estimates; and up to this moment the aid accorded to libraries has been very inconsiderable, except as respects the British Museum.

141. Can you trace the different periods at which the British Museum has been either ill supplied or more abundantly supplied with Parliamentary grants; will you take, for instance, a period 50 years ago, and state how it stood then; take also an intervening period, and take the present period?—The first grant in special aid of the library of the British Museum was made by Parliament in the year 1812; from that date to the year 1836 the total amount of such grants was 28,376 *l.*, or 1,135 *l.* a year; in 1836 the Committee of the House of Commons made its report upon the Museum, and recommended a more liberal expenditure; in the session next following the report of that Committee, the grant applicable to the purchase of printed books was considerably increased. During nine years, from 1837 to 1845, the sum devoted to that purpose was 30,944 *l.*, or about 3,440 *l.* a year, being nearly three times what it had been during the whole of the previous period. In 1846 and 1847, 10,000 *l.* a year was granted for purchases; in 1848, however, this grant was reduced to 8,500 *l.*; and the sum proposed to be voted for the same purpose this Session is only 5,000 *l.* The entire annual sum now allotted to the service of the library, in all its departments, is about 21,500 *l.*

142. In fact the British Museum has now the largest amount of public money voted for it of any library now existing, has it not?—Of any library in Europe, or in the world, I should think.

143. Mr. *Charteris.*] Do you know what is the aggregate sum that has been granted by the Government of France for the libraries of Paris?—To answer that question accurately will require some research, but I will endeavour on a future occasion, to lay before the Committee a tabular view of all such grants, both in France and in this country.

144. *Chairman.*] Do you include in the number of libraries which you have stated as existing in this country, libraries of different degrees of accessibility?—Yes; some are accessible of right, and others merely by favour.

145. How would you classify them?—First, I would take those which are gratuitously and unrestrictedly accessible to the public; secondly, those which are gratuitously accessible of right, but only on the production of some special recommendation; thirdly, those that are the property of corporate or proprietary bodies, admission to which is given on certain conditions as a matter of favour.

146. Taking libraries which are free to all comers, like most of the continental libraries, how many of those have we in the United Kingdom?—Only one, by express regulation, Chetham's Library, at Manchester.

147. That is the only library which you consider completely accessible in England?—Yes; that is to say unrestrictedly accessible.

148. Have not you to furnish your name on going in?—That is the only thing which is required; any person coming into that library writes his name and address in a register book; that is the only formality.

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149. Upon doing that he may have any book given to him which is in the library?—He may.

150. To read in the room?—Yes.

151. Has any evil arisen from that system?—There has been a complaint of irregularity in some instances, and of loss of books to some extent, but I believe such losses have resulted from insufficient regulation in the library itself: for instance, the books were not properly stamped, and the readers were not confined to the reading room, but allowed to move freely about the library as they pleased.

152. Is there no library in Ireland accessible unrestrictedly to the public?—Not absolutely so.

153. How many libraries are there in the United Kingdom accessible of right on the production of some sort of recommendation or introduction?—I think not more than 10, or perhaps 11.

154. Can you state to the Committee the general nature of the recommendation or introduction which is required?—It is generally that which prevails at the British Museum, namely, the exaction of a recommendation from some person of known standing, vouching for the respectability of the applicant.

155. How many are there accessible as a matter of grace or favour?—I think 20 or 21.

156. In those you include college libraries, and libraries of that description?—Yes.

157. Do you include the libraries of such learned bodies as the Inns of Court?—No; there are no recognized grounds of introduction to them. It must be a matter of personal favour from some individual member or bencher.

158. Do you also include the medical libraries, such, for instance, as that of the College of Physicians?—No; I think the same remark applies to all those. Admission to them can only be obtained as a personal favour from some individual; there are no recognized terms of admission from the whole body, except in the case of the library of the Dublin College of Physicians, from which medical students may borrow books, for the almost nominal payment of 5 *s.* each medical session.

159. Do not they come in under the description of libraries accessible as matter of grace and favour?—I do not think they can be called public libraries at all. You can get admission to them, but only as a matter of personal favour from some member.

160. Do you know whether there is greater facility for visiting such libraries, containing works on legal or medical subjects abroad, than there is in this country?—I think there is, because certain advertisements, if I may so call them, are made of the terms upon which the admission to such libraries can be procured. In Paris, in addition to the libraries I have named to the Committee as being strictly public, there are not less than 14 or 15 other libraries to which persons of literary pursuits may easily get access.

161. Who are the owners of those libraries?—Generally they belong to corporate or proprietary bodies.

162. Would a law student or a medical student have greater facilities in procuring an introduction to such libraries in Paris or abroad generally, than he would in England?—I think very much so.

163. What is the name of the great public law library in Paris?—The Library of the Court of Cassation, originally formed out of a portion of that old library of the Faculty of Advocates which I mentioned in the answer to a previous question, as having been founded by private benefaction. The Library of the Court of Cassation, now contains about 36,000 volumes.

164. A student would have greater facility there, than in applying to the libraries of our Inns of Court?—I think very much more so.

165. Is not there great facility given to medical students in our own medical libraries?—Yes, I believe those medical libraries are very liberally managed in respect to persons connected with the particular professions to which they relate.

166. How many libraries, including all those classes, are there open to students in London?—There are four, all of which belong to the second class; the British Museum Library, with 435,000 volumes; Sion College Library, with 35,000 volumes.

167. In what part of London is Sion College?—Near London Wall, in the City.

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City. There are also Dr. Williams's Library, in Redcross-street, with 17,000 volumes; and Archbishop Tenison's Library, in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, with 3,000 volumes.

168. When was Sion College library founded?—It was founded, I think, about 1630, for the clergy of the city and suburbs of London.

169. By whom was it founded?—By Dr. White, an eminent City clergyman of that day.

170. Was it intended to be a freely accessible library when it was founded?—I think not; I think it was founded expressly for the City clergy; it is only of late years that it has been made publicly accessible, upon the same terms as the British Museum Library.

171. Sion College Library is now accessible, is it, upon the same terms as the British Museum Library?—Yes.

172. Do they follow exactly in the footsteps of the British Museum?—I think they have done so very much within the last few years; access to it was very difficult 10 years ago.

173. Do other readers frequent it besides those connected with the clergy?—Yes, I think many; the library is open daily from ten to four.

174. The Rev. Mr. Christmas is the librarian, is not he?—Yes.

175. And a great deal of liberality is shown in the management of the library?—A great deal.

176. How is that library supported?—I believe its means of maintenance, at present, are almost exclusively derived from the Treasury grant of 363 *l.* a year, granted in lieu of former privileges, under the Copyright Act.

177. Are there no additional means of supporting it besides that grant?—I believe at present there is a very slender addition to it indeed. The college is in debt, and its expenditure is necessarily curtailed in consequence.

178. What is the nature of the institution beyond the library?—There is a charitable foundation for certain classes of pensioners, and, generally speaking, it is a corporate body to protect the interests of the whole body of the City clergy.

179. The corporation itself is in debt at present, is it not?—It is at present, mainly, I believe, on account of expenses connected with building and repairs.

180. In what way was Dr. Williams's Library founded, and how is it regulated?—Dr. Williams's Library was founded in 1716, and was increased by the bequest of the Library of Dr. William Harris a few years afterwards.

181. What was the object of that library?—It was left for the public use and benefit.

182. It was intended by Dr. Williams to be freely open to everybody, was it?—Yes.

183. It was not restricted to the Dissenting clergy?—No.

184. How is that library regulated?—It is open daily; the admission to it requires the order of a trustee; but it is publicly notified that if in any case difficulty should be experienced by individuals in procuring the necessary recommendations, assistance will be cheerfully afforded them upon application to the librarian.

185. Who are the trustees of Dr. Williams's Library?—They are for the most part Presbyterian clergymen.

186. When was Archbishop Tenison's Library founded?—It was founded in 1684, in which year Dr. Tenison applied to the Vestry of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields for permission to erect upon certain ground belonging to that parish "a fabric for a public library for the use of the students of the abovesaid precinct of Westminster." In pursuance of this proposition, Dr. Tenison built a library, and gave a considerable number of books, and 1,000 *l.* in money.

187. That was not intended for any special class of persons, was it?—There is no limitation save that which I have noticed. Practically it has been very much confined to the clergy of Westminster; it has a very slender endowment for the salary of the librarian; but no endowment or fund at all for the purchase of books, therefore it is a very small and unimportant library.

188. Have any additions been made to that library?—I think none at all.

189. It consists of old books, does not it?—Chiefly theology.

190. Does Dr. Williams's consist of theological books?—Mainly of such books, I believe.

191. Are additions made to that library?—Yes, to a small extent.

192. Is

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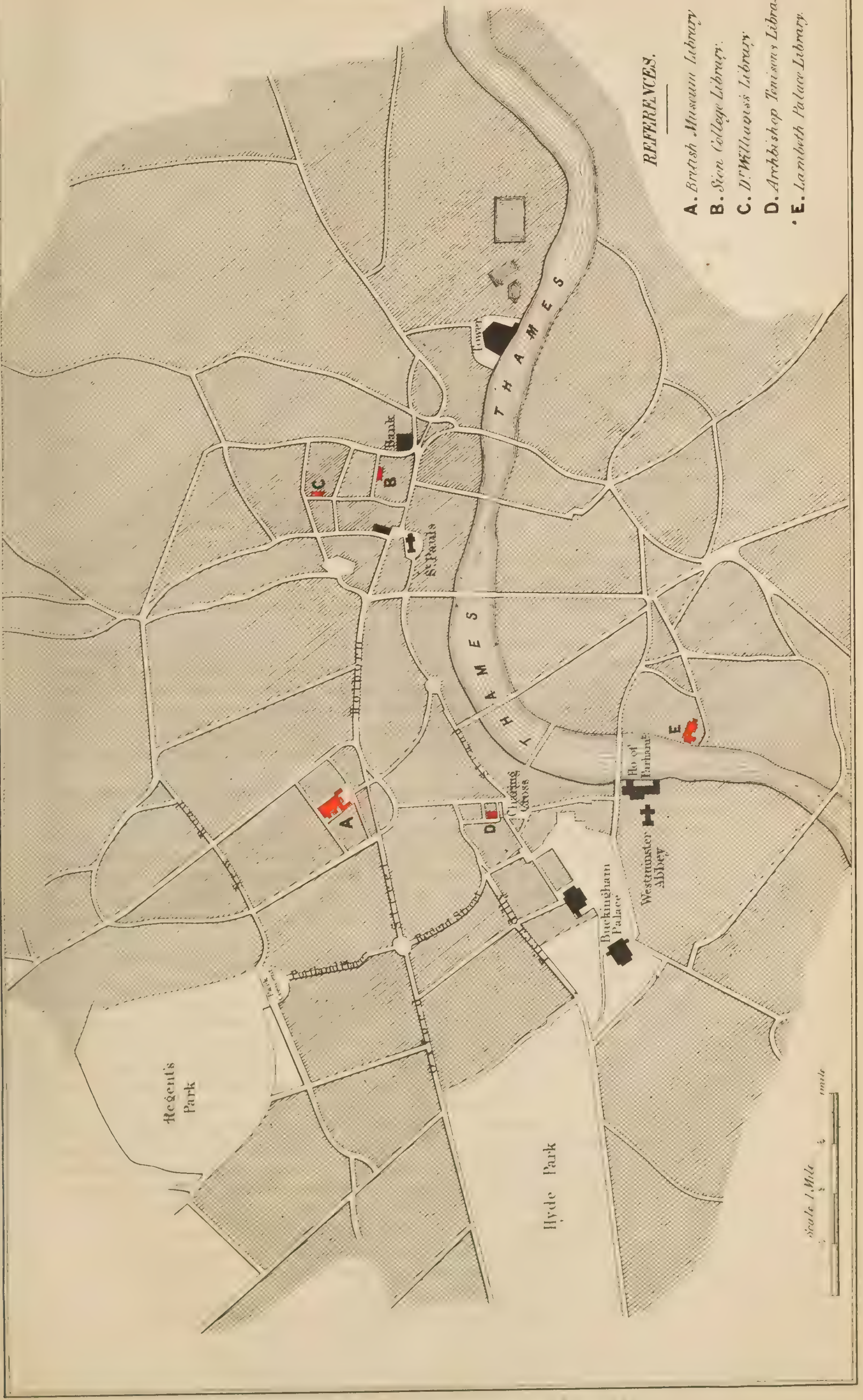
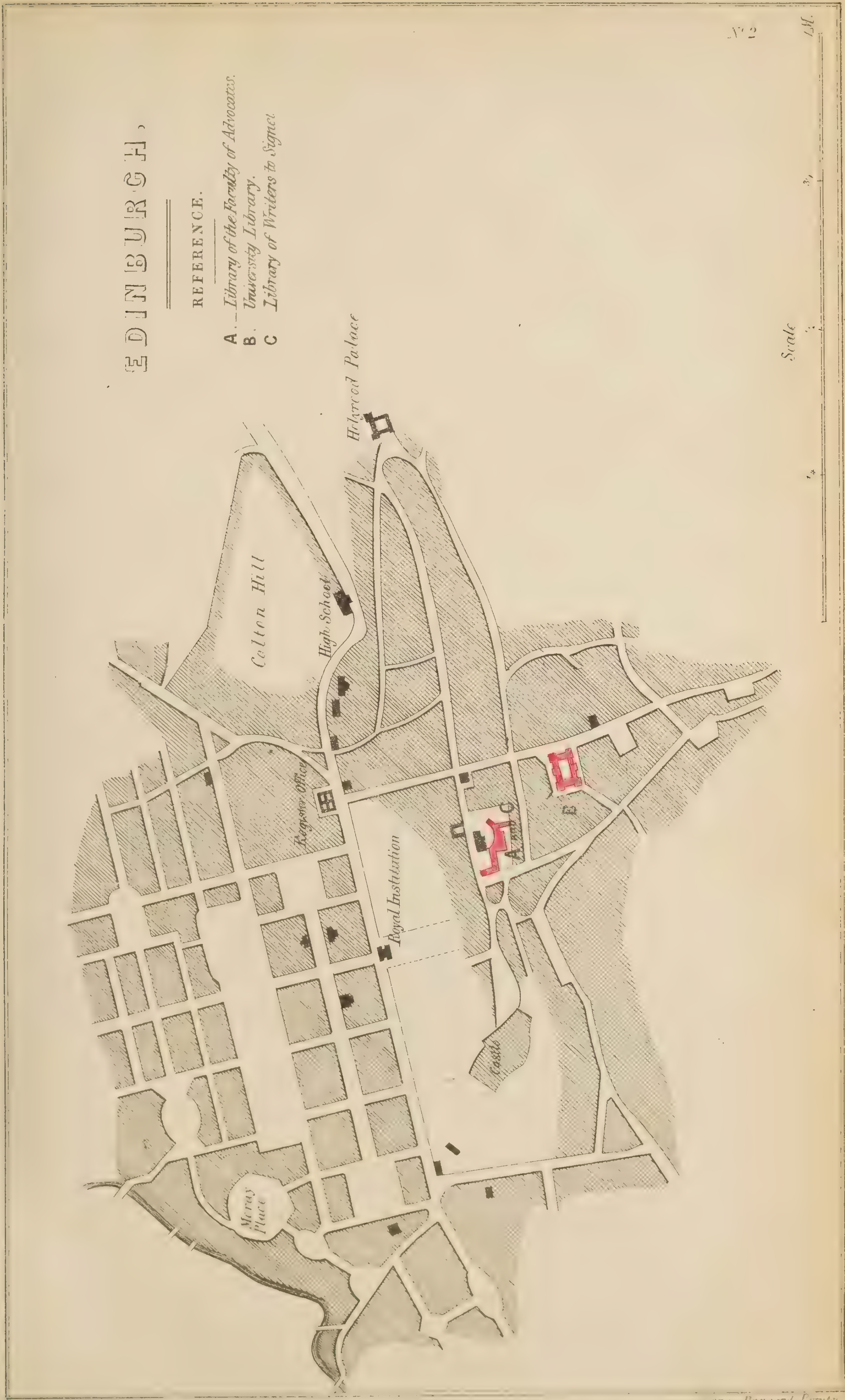
LONDON.



No. 518. Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 23d July 1849.
Henry Hansard, Printer.



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No 548 Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 23rd July 1849.

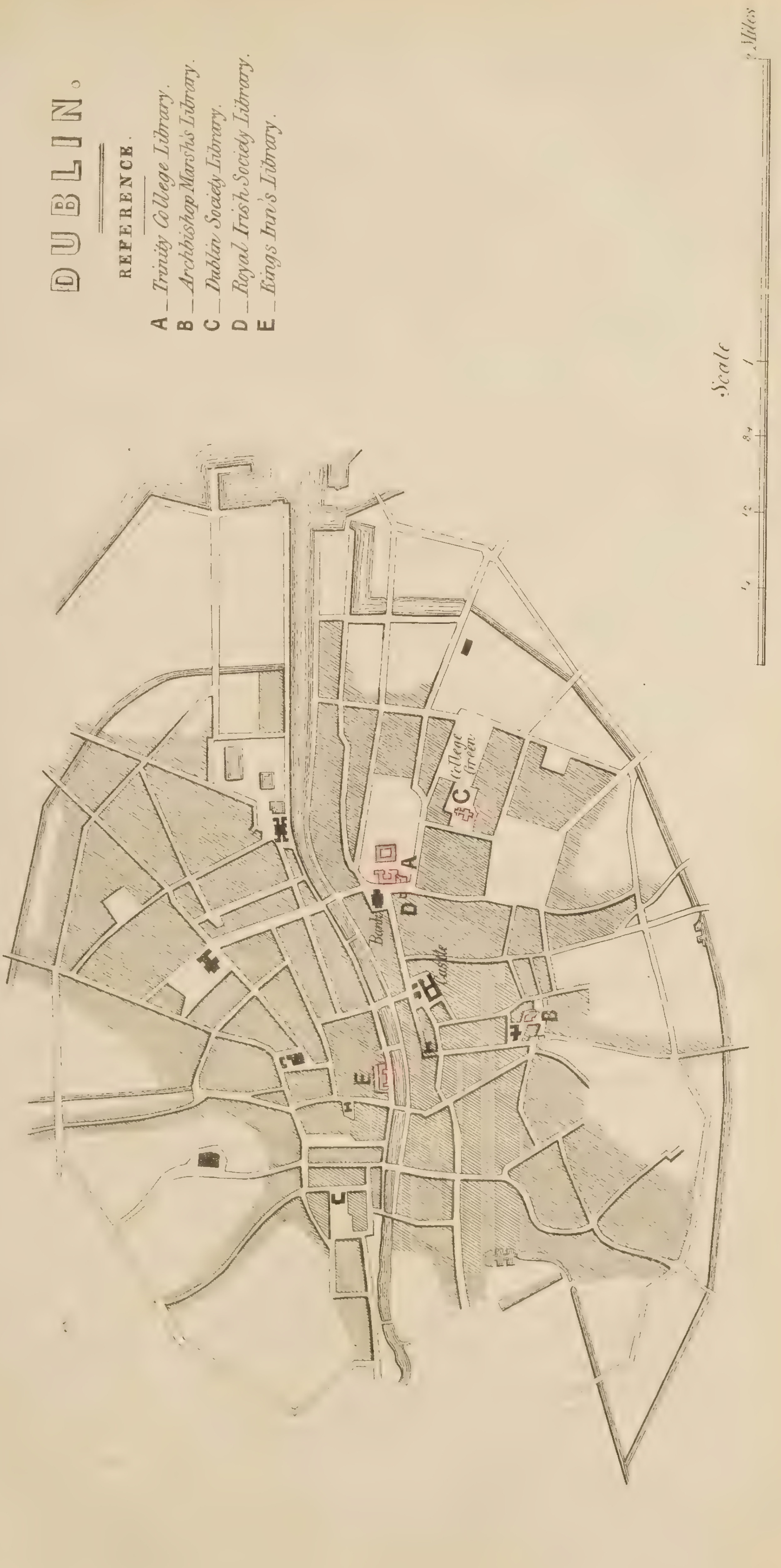
Henry Hansard Printer

No. 3.

DUBLIN.

REFERENCE.

A _ *Trinity College Library.*
B _ *Archbishop Marsh's Library.*
C _ *Dublin Society Library.*
D _ *Royal Irish Society Library.*
E _ *Kings Inn's Library.*



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No. 548.) Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 23rd July, 1849.

192. Is Archbishop Tenison's library of easy access?—I believe so at present, but it does not attract any class of students except the clergy, and those only to a very small degree, I believe; it is exclusively a library of old books.

193. Has it any endowment?—It has no endowment for the purchase of books, and only a very slender one for the salary of the librarian.

194. What is the aggregate number of volumes accessible to the public in those libraries which you have named, and what proportion does it bear to the population of London?—The number of volumes is about 490,000, which would give 24 and a half volumes to every 100 inhabitants.

195. What is the number in Paris?—In Paris the proportion is 160 volumes to every 100 inhabitants; in Berlin, 182; in Florence, 317; in Copenhagen, 467; in Dresden, 490; and in Munich, 750; so that Paris is more than six times better provided than London; Berlin seven times; Florence 13 times; Copenhagen 19 times; Dresden 20 times, and Munich 31 times.

196. Are the libraries in London advantageously located with respect to the present extent of the metropolis?—The plan which I put in will show that they are not so; it will show that a very large proportion of London is quite removed from any library whatever; the southern part, the eastern part, and the north-western part of London, are wholly without public libraries. (*The Witness delivered in the Plan.*) *Vide* Appendix.

197. What is the part of London which is best supplied with libraries?—The portion around the British Museum.

198. And next to that the City?—Yes, because there are two libraries there, in addition to the Guildhall Library, which, though not a public library in any strict sense of the term, is very easily accessible to such persons as can get a personal introduction from a member of the corporation.

199. Then the old part of London is that which is the best supplied with libraries, the neighbourhood of the British Museum, and the City?—Yes.

200. All the vast population which is being added almost daily to London is getting further and further from the spot where those libraries are situated?—Yes.

201. Is there any public library in Marylebone?—None at all.

202. Is there any public library in Finsbury?—No.

203. Is there any public library in Southwark?—None at all.

204. Is there any public library in Pimlico?—None at all.

205. What public libraries are there in Edinburgh?—There are three public libraries in Edinburgh, that of the Faculty of Advocates, with 148,000 volumes; that of the University of Edinburgh, with 90,000 volumes, and that of the Writers to the Signet, with 50,000 volumes, or thereabouts.

206. What is the proportion of books in Edinburgh to the population?—About 219 volumes to every 100 inhabitants.

207. Then Edinburgh is better supplied than London?—Very much so.

208. Are any of those libraries supported by a tax levied on the publications of authors?—The library of the Faculty of Advocates receives books under the Copyright Act at present; the library of the University of Edinburgh receives a Treasury grant yearly, amounting to 575 *l.*

209. Every author is obliged to send a copy of his work to the Advocates' Library, is he, as in the case of the British Museum, the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and the University of Dublin?—Yes.

210. There are five libraries which have the privilege of exacting a copy of a book from its author upon publication?—Yes.

211. And there are six libraries which receive compensation in lieu of that?—Yes, amounting in the aggregate to 3,025 *l.*

212. How many public libraries are there in Dublin?—Four libraries are more or less accesible to the public; namely, the Trinity College Library, with 103,000 volumes; Archbishop Marsh's Library, with 17,600 volumes; the Dublin Society's Library, with 12,000 volumes; and the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, with 9,800 volumes, making a total of 142,889 volumes; but of these, Marsh's is the only strictly public library in Dublin.

213. How many books are there to every 100 inhabitants in Dublin?—Fifty-nine.

214. Of those libraries only one receives books from authors?—Only one; Trinity College Library. The King's Inns Library, which I do not enumerate as a public library at all, receives a grant of 433*l.* a year.

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215. In compensation for the loss of its former privilege of receiving books under the Copyright Act?—Yes.

216. What endowment has Marsh's Library?—Marsh's Library is endowed with an unimproveable rentcharge upon an estate in the county of Meath.

217. It was endowed by Archbishop Marsh?—Yes.

218. At what date?—In 1713. He leased an estate in the county of Meath, which is now very valuable, in perpetuity, for 350*l.* a year, Irish currency, devoting 250*l.* of that sum to the purposes of the library.

219. Does that endowment afford the means of supplying the library with new books from time to time?—Not at all; 210*l.* of it is devoted to the salary of the librarian, and 30*l.* to the salary of the assistant librarian, leaving only 10*l.* for the current expenses, so that no additions can be made of new books, though it is really the most accessible and only truly public library in Dublin. And all these sums are subject to deductions for poor-rate; and the librarian's salary to an additional and very heavy deduction for repairs.

220. Are the books principally old theological works?—Miscellaneous works. It is a very good collection, but a collection quite devoid of new books; there is no modern science, no periodical publications, no cyclopædias; nothing, in short, of recent date.

221. How many visits were paid to Marsh's Library for the purpose of study during last year?—Nine hundred and fifteen.

222. Under what regulations are the public admitted to that library?—A recommendation satisfactory to the librarian is required; it is similar to that which obtains in the Museum.

223. Was unrestricted admission ever allowed there?—Yes; up to within the last 20 years no formality at all had to be gone through, except in signing the name in a book, as in Chetham's Library.

224. Was there any abuse of that unrestricted system of admission?—It is stated that, between the foundation of the library and the year 1828, 1,200 volumes were lost; that was during the time that the admission was entirely unrestricted.

225. Do you think that the abuse has arisen from the freedom of access, or from defective management in the library?—I think entirely from defective management in the library. The books were unstamped, and readers were permitted to go to the presses and take the books down; there was no place set apart for reading, and no proper precautions were taken to preserve the books. All this is now changed. The library is under admirable management, although its public utility is sorely cramped from want of funds.

226. Is the library at present in a hazardous condition as a building?—Very much so; it is immediately contiguous to a manufacturing druggist's laboratory, and is imminently liable to be destroyed by fire, and there are no means of securing it; there is not even a fund for insuring it.

227. How is the library of Trinity College supported?—Partly by graduation fees from students, and also by an annual grant from the general funds of the university, making up the produce of those graduation fees to 1,000*l.* a year as a minimum. Occasionally special grants are made in addition to that.

228. Under what rules is the library of Trinity College accessible to the public?—Under the original regulations none but graduates were admissible, but very lately the heads of that college have made new rules, admitting all persons properly introduced and recommended, except under graduates, who are not admitted at all.

229. The public at large are admitted, but not under-graduate students?—Yes; on the same terms as at the Museum in London.

230. That is an instance of a college library which admits the public as well as persons belonging to the college?—Yes; under certain restrictions.

231. Which is very much the system pursued on the continent?—Very much so.

232. Has any evil resulted from that system to Trinity College Library?—I think not. There were losses there to some extent; but they were under the old system of restriction.

233. At our university libraries there is not the facility of admission given to the public which is given at Trinity College, Dublin?—No, not to anything like the same extent.

234. Is not the Bodleian Library at Oxford very similar to that of Trinity

College, Dublin?—In some respects it is; and it is similar in respect of its support, which is partly by the contributions of authors under the Copyright Act; but it is not so accessible practically; it is, I think, more a matter of personal favour to obtain admission there than it now is in Trinity College, Dublin, because in the latter they lay down and publish certain rules.

235. Do they admit a resident at Oxford, or a stranger, into the Bodleian Library?—I believe not, except as a special personal favour.

236. And the same at Cambridge?—I believe so.

237. How many readers visited Trinity College Library during last year?—The number of visits during 1847–8 is stated to have been 8,887.

238. Have there been many instances of misconduct on the part of readers in injuring or stealing books there?—Not lately; there were considerable losses sustained under the old system of restricted admission, but they also appear to have been partly caused by allowing the readers to go anywhere about the library, not restricting them to a specific reading room.

239. How is the library of the King's Inns in Dublin supported?—Mainly by a Treasury grant of 433 *l*. In addition to this, every barrister, attorney, and law student pays something towards its support.

240. Under what regulations is it accessible to the public?—It is not accessible at all; the only sense in which it can be called a public library is that it is partly supported by public funds.

241. Under what circumstances was the library of the Dublin Society founded?—Till very lately it was merely the library of a corporate body; for more than a century the Dublin Society has received a Parliamentary grant, and out of that grant the library has been partly supported, but it is only since the Report of a Select Committee of the House of Commons upon the Society 10 years ago, that it has been made at all publicly accessible.

242. Do you speak of the Society of Arts?—It is a society of arts, very much resembling the Society of Arts in London, only still more general in its objects.

243. How is that library supported?—The Dublin Society receives a yearly Parliamentary grant of about 6,000 *l*., and out of that a sum of 500 *l*. is set apart for the purchase of books.

244. Under what regulations are the public admitted to the Dublin Society's Library?—On the same terms as to the British Museum now; it is open daily.

245. There is a library also called the "Royal Irish Academy Library," is there not?—Yes.

246. From what sources is that library supported?—Partly out of a Parliamentary grant which it has received since 1815, and partly from subscriptions levied from the members.

247. What is the amount of the Parliamentary grant?—£.300 a year.

248. That is not in lieu of any copyright privilege?—No; in 1845 there was a special grant of 600 *l*. made for the purpose of purchasing Irish manuscripts, and since the society has been in the enjoyment of the Parliamentary grant, 3,000 *l*. has been expended in the purchase of printed books, and 2,236 *l*. in purchasing manuscripts.

249. What is the number of books in the Royal Irish Academy Library?—About 9,800.

250. Is that an increasing library?—Yes.

251. What are the rules which regulate the admission of the public into the Royal Irish Academy Library?—An introduction is required from members of the Academy either personally or by letter; and in addition to that, all persons are admitted who are known to the librarian.

252. Are there any other libraries in any other towns in Ireland?—There is a library in Armagh, founded by Primate Robinson, containing about 12,000 volumes, and liberally endowed.

253. Is there any other?—I do not know of any other, excepting libraries founded more particularly for the clergy, like those of Derry, Kilkenny, and Raphoe, and some other cathedral cities.

254. One of those public libraries has been of some use to authors, has not it?—Marsh's Library; that has always been very well managed; it is under excellent management at present.

255. That is the library that is in such danger from the contiguity of a druggist's laboratory?—Yes.

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256. Some of the notes of Swift are still to be found in the books of that library, are they not?—Yes.

257. And it is of service to the public, is it?—Very much so indeed, and is very well managed.

258. What public libraries are there in Manchester?—Chetham's Library is the only really public library in Manchester.

259. What is the endowment of the Chetham Library?—The annual income of the library is 544 *l.*, arising from the rents of three farms, 500 *l.* a year, and the dividends on 150 *l.* 3½ per cent. annuities. Of that sum 175 *l.* is appropriated in salaries; and the keeping up of the buildings costs 249 *l.*, leaving 109 *l.* only for purchases and for binding, and current out-goings.

260. Do they continue to purchase new books for the Chetham Library?—To a very small extent, as far as the small balance remaining will allow.

261. You have stated that a person is admitted on the inscription of his name in a book?—Yes.

262. And that it is the most accessible library in England, in fact?—It is.

263. Have books been lost from the library to a considerable extent?—There have been considerable losses there up to a recent period, but they are partly to be ascribed to dishonesty on the part of a person who was employed in some subordinate capacity, who has been very recently prosecuted; but the same remark would apply which applied to Marsh's Library in Dublin. Readers were allowed to come to all parts of the library, and take books themselves, and the books were not stamped, so that any person having dishonest intentions had every facility to abstract books, and they could not be traced. That has ceased to be the case under the present management, which I believe to be exemplary.

264. What public libraries are there in Glasgow?—There are the library of the University of Glasgow, with 58,000 volumes; Stirling's Library, with 10,000, and the library of the Hunterian Museum, with 12,000.

265. Which of those libraries receives books under the Copyright Act, or compensation for such books?—Glasgow receives 707 *l.* a year for the University Library.

266. It does not receive books under the Copyright Act?—No.

267. Is the University Library there open to the public?—Not at all.

268. How was Stirling's Library in Glasgow founded, and how is it supported?—It was founded by Mr. Walter Stirling in 1785, in these terms: "I bequeath to and in favour of the Lord Provost of Glasgow and his successors the sum of 1,000 *l.*, and my tenement lying on the east side of Miller-street, and my share in the Tontine Society of Glasgow, for the sole and only purpose of creating a library and appointing a librarian." The deed of mortification, dated the 31st of October 1791, directs that "no regulation which may be made or agreed to shall be inconsistent with or strike against the chief or primary view of this donation, the constant and perpetual existence of a public library for the citizens of Glasgow." Notwithstanding that direct regulation on the part of the donor, immediately after the deed of mortification a rule was made restricting the use of the library to such persons as should pay a life subscription of three guineas, and that subscription was subsequently raised to five guineas, and afterwards to 10 guineas.

269. That was in contravention of the direction of the donor?—Certainly in contravention of the spirit of the bequest. The rental at present produces only 120 *l.* a year, and the life subscriptions during the last five years have only averaged about 80 guineas a year, so that the number of persons who have benefited by that bequest has hitherto been extremely limited.

270. I see that persons are now admitted again under the terms imposed by the founder?—Yes; during the last few months a movement has been made to improve the condition of the library; to make it accessible to persons who come to it to read, without requiring any subscription; to reduce the life subscription from ten guineas to five, and allow all life subscribers to borrow books, not allowing any one else to borrow books. In addition to that, persons may subscribe a small sum annually instead of paying a life subscription, but anybody may come to read in the library.

271. Even those who are not citizens of Glasgow?—I cannot speak to that point.

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272. Has the number of readers increased in consequence of the recent regulation?—It has only just come into operation, so that there has been no time to test it.

273. Are the public admitted to the University Library of Glasgow?—No, there is no access to that library, though it has a Treasury grant, except by putting yourself under personal obligation to some individual member of the university. I have had letters stating that persons of professional and literary avocations have been unable to get into the library, unless by putting themselves under obligation in a manner which was not quite agreeable to them, which has deterred many persons from using the library.

274. Under what regulations are students of the university allowed access to the library?—The students of the university are only allowed access to the library upon making deposits; whether they frequent the library or not, they are obliged to pay what are called library dues every session.

275. Are similar limitations imposed in the other university libraries of Scotland?—Not in St. Andrew's. St. Andrew's is very liberally accessible to all persons who bring an introduction satisfactory to the librarian. Till a short time since, it was a rule that every professor of St. Andrew's University might nominate five inhabitants of the town to be readers; they might enter their names upon a book, which gave them the privilege of borrowing books as well as reading in the library; that is now abrogated; the practice is assimilated to that of libraries which require a recommendation addressed to the librarian. The library of King's College, Aberdeen, is very much restricted, but not so much so as that of Glasgow.

276. Have the students of Marischal College, Aberdeen, access to the library in the same way as those of King's College?—No, I believe not; there is great dissatisfaction in Aberdeen with the management of the King's College Library.

277. Is there any ground for not making it a general University Library?—I think not; the mere receipt of public money ought to involve, I think, a clear right of public accessibility.

278. Have there been any complaints, to your knowledge, from the inhabitants of Aberdeen, at being excluded from a library to which the public contribute?—I think there have been many complaints.

279. Do you think, in a university library, admission should be accorded to non-members of the university, on the same terms as to members?—Not upon the same terms; I think there ought to be free accessibility to the public, especially where public money is received; but it is perfectly reasonable that the members of the university should use the library somewhat more freely than those who are entirely strangers to it, because, in almost every instance, the library has been formed by the contributions of members.

280. In fact, you think it would be just to assimilate university libraries receiving public money to a certain extent to university libraries on the Continent?—Yes; and when I say that I think there should be some difference, I mean, for example, that it is a perfectly reasonable restriction to put upon the general public that they shall not come into the library and help themselves to books; they ought to be sent to a place apart to read them when brought, but I think the members of the university should not be subject to that restriction. It has been a matter of complaint in Dublin that the steps which have been taken to make the library more available to the public have had the effect of diminishing the former rights and privileges of the graduates.

281. How many of the libraries which you have named are lending libraries?—None at all, with the single exception of the library I have mentioned already as existing at Armagh; there are no free lending libraries in Great Britain of any kind. The university libraries, except that of Trinity College, Dublin, are lending libraries to the members; the library of the Faculty of Advocates at Edinburgh has been, by special favour, in certain cases, a lending library, but not of right.

282. Is not the library of Trinity College a lending library?—There is a special lending library, containing 2,300 volumes, but it is only for the members of the university, not for strangers.

283. Is not it stated in a Parliamentary Return that as the admission or non-admission of others is not alluded to by the statutes, the provost and senior fellows deem themselves at liberty to admit the public?—I think that refers to

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the use of books in the library itself; Trinity College has no lending library except for the members of the college.

284. Is not it mentioned in the Parliamentary Return, moved for by the Chairman, dated 9th of March 1849, with regard to the Advocates' Library at Edinburgh: "It is for all practical purposes a public library, and is the most accessible of all the great libraries in the United Kingdom. Any person of a decent appearance is allowed to consult books"?—It has been so stated; I believe the fact would be a great novelty to any person in Edinburgh. I have heard several persons express their astonishment that such a return should have been made.

285. With regard to Aberdeen University, is it stated in the same return, that persons who are neither graduates nor students of the university, are allowed to take out books, if recommended by a professor of the university?—I have seen that statement, but I find upon inquiry of persons living at Aberdeen, that practically that privilege cannot be obtained without the persons seeking it putting themselves under the same obligation that they would to the owner of a private library; it is just the same sort of favour. It is not known publicly in Aberdeen that under certain regulations such a privilege can be obtained.

286. With regard to St. Andrew's University Library, is not it stated that all the students have the use of the library free of access?—I believe St. Andrew's is by far the most liberally managed of the Scottish University libraries.

287. Is not it further stated, that "persons resident in the town or elsewhere, engaged *boná fide* in literary and scientific investigations, with a view to publication, may still receive books from the library, on application to the *Senatus Academicus*"?—I believe it is so.

288. Is not the Edinburgh University Library a lending library. It is stated to be divided into two departments, the borrowing department and the reading room?—I believe that only applies to members of the university.

289. Every person is entitled to borrow to the extent of 25 volumes. It is only a lending library you think as far as the members of the university are concerned?—That is the case.

290. The return says, "Literary gentlemen or others, who have occasion to consult or to borrow books, on application to the curators or to individual professors, willing to be responsible for them, are allowed every practical facility;" is that the case?—Yes, I think so.

291. With regard to the Glasgow University Library, it is stated to be open to all respectable persons, properly introduced?—Yes, I believe that is the case; but only to persons properly introduced, as a matter of mere favour.

Martis, 24° *die Aprilis*, 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Mackinnon.	Mr. Hamilton.
Mr. Kershaw.	Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Bunbury.	Viscount Ebrington.
Mr. Charteris.	Sir Harry Verney.
The Lord Advocate.	Mr. Ewart.
Mr. Thicknesse.	

WILLIAM EWART, Esq., in the Chair.

Edward Edwards, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

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292. *Chairman.*] YOU stated in your last examination that English literary men had, in your opinion, suffered much from the limited number and inaccessibility of public libraries. Do not you consider that the English people must have suffered greatly from the same cause?—I think very much indeed; and I believe that the want of accessibility of good books is one cause of the backwardness of this country in respect to education among large portions of the population; and it is one reason why, in cases where some sort of schooling has been obtained, it has

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has been found, upon the Parliamentary inquiries which have been made into the state of education in certain districts of the country, that such schooling has been but of little use to the children in after life, nothing like a taste for reading having been cultivated. I think access to good libraries would be one great means of advancing the educational condition of the country.

293. Have we not recently opened galleries and museums of art, and ancient institutions, very much to the people; Hampton Court Palace for example, and the National Gallery, and various institutions connected with art and with science; and do you not consider it of equal or of greater importance to open public libraries in the same way?—I entirely think so; I believe that what has been done in the direction which the question suggests, has been attended with very good results; but I think it is very far from being adequate to the wants of the country or to its resources; but in all cases where access to public collections has been given, the results have been of a highly gratifying nature.

294. Do you happen to know whether the inhabitants of large towns have petitioned Parliament that facilities may be given for the extension of public libraries in large towns?—There have been several instances of petitions from large towns to that effect.

295. Do you happen to know that such a feeling is strong in those towns?—I know from correspondence that there is a very general feeling indeed to that effect.

296. What do you consider to have been the result of the opening of institutions connected with the arts to the people, the National Gallery, for instance, and Hampton Court Palace?—I think that large numbers of people have been frequently withdrawn from amusements of an unintellectual, and often of an injurious character, to such amusements as are rational and improving, and are calculated to benefit them in very many ways.

297. Do you think that libraries would have the same effect?—I think even in a greater degree, if they were made generally accessible.

298. Viewing the immense and almost daily extension of London, is not the policy of creating public libraries becoming daily of more importance?—I think it is on several accounts; not only from the growth of London making the actual existing provision of libraries more and more inadequate, but also from the fact that the increase in the production of books makes it still more difficult for persons, even those who have considerable private resources, to keep pace with what is produced both here and abroad; and I think, therefore, that as it becomes more difficult for many persons adequately to purchase books, it is still more important that they should be provided in public libraries.

299. Viewing the gigantic increase of our manufacturing and commercial towns, is not the subject of daily increasing importance there also?—Certainly it is.

300. Are many of the populous cities and towns in the United Kingdom totally unprovided with libraries which are open to the public?—A great many; for example, Liverpool, Birmingham, Sheffield, Leeds, and Hull, none of those places have public libraries.

301. Is not it a striking circumstance to an Englishman as he leaves a large town, such as Dover, without any public library, to find himself at Boulogne, where there is a good and accessible public library?—Yes, that must have occurred frequently to Englishmen quitting England.

302. There is a very good public library at Boulogne, is not there?—A very good one.

303. Have any attempts been made to supply libraries in large towns?—Some attempts of a very imperfect kind have been made by mechanics' institutions. I have here a list of some of the libraries in towns in Lancashire and Cheshire, but from the fluctuating nature of the resources of those institutions, and the want of permanency in them, such libraries often last but a short time, and are then dispersed and sold.

304. They are only subscription libraries, are they?—They are only subscription libraries, accessible only to persons paying a certain yearly sum.

305. Is that a return upon which you can rely?—It is.

[*The same was delivered in*:]

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NUMBER of MEMBERS and of VOLUMES in the Libraries of several Mechanics' Institutions in *Lancashire* and *Cheshire*; March 1849.

—	Volumes in Library.	MEMBERS.	Population, 1841.
Blackburn	800	170	36,186
Bolton	3,511	232	50,163
Burnley	3,000	334	10,699
Bury	1,000	171	24,759
Clitheroe	1,230	110	11,324
Darwen	1,750	164	9,348
Droylsden	163	78	4,933
Farnworth	300	118	4,829
Fleetwood	369	93	2,833
Heywood	350	66	14,856
Lancaster	1,800	No return	14,389
Leigh	988	189	22,229
Liverpool Mechanics' Institution	15,000	2,500	282,656
Northern ditto	900	- - - -	
Roscoe Club	1,100	750	
Manchester Mechanics' Institution	- - - -	No return.	—
Oldham Road ditto	2,000	142	353,390
Salford ditto	2,650	241	
Ancoats Lyceum	3,210	243	
Charlton Improvement Society	600	73	
Oldham Lyceum	1,300	263	60,109
Patricroft	800	—	—
Prescot	626	77	5,451
Preston	4,200	493	50,332
Rochdale (People's Institution)	1,000	150	24,091
Stalybridge	1,010	145	5,747
Chester	4,000	408	22,961
Crewe	2,082	180	—
Middlewich	800	74	—
Nantwich	500	78	5,489

306. What is the number of volumes belonging to those libraries?—The largest of them is the Mechanics' Institution at Liverpool, with 15,000 volumes. I would observe that all these are of a very inadequate character, and totally unprovided with any permanent means of support.

307. Have any attempts been made to establish what are called itinerating libraries for the instruction of the people?—That has been done in Scotland some years ago, by the zealous exertions of a very worthy man, not now living, Mr. Samuel Brown, who attempted to found libraries of that character in the Lothians. He thus describes his plan: "The primary feature of these libraries is their itinerating character; the books are formed into divisions of 50 volumes each; one of these divisions is stationed in a place for two years; and the books are issued to all persons above 12 years of age, who will take proper care of them. After that period it is removed to another town or village, and a new division is sent in its room, which, after other two years, is again exchanged for another; thus a perpetual succession of new books is introduced into each town and village, and by this means the interest of the readers is effectually kept up." Then he says, "The issues of new books at Haddington, to subscribers, have on an average been nearly eight and half times per annum for each volume;" that is, each volume during that period circulates nearly eight and a half times.

308. In what period?—Yearly; upon an average of several years. He adds, "The gratuitous issues at Haddington, Gifford, Salton, Aberlady, North Berwick, Belhaven, and Spott, have on an average been seven times per annum for each volume; and the issues of the books of the whole establishment (now amounting to upwards of 2,000 volumes) have, so far as reported, been five times for each volume, or 10,000 issues of the whole. If the same number of books had been formed into as many stationary libraries, there is reason to doubt whether the issues, several years after their establishment, would have amounted to 1,000 a year. Such indeed has been the interest excited by the regular removal of the libraries, and the supply of new divisions, that in several places, during the winter season, the whole of the books have been issued at once; not a volume has been left in the library."

library." I am quoting this from a memoir relative to itinerating libraries, which attracted some attention; but I am afraid, and I am very sorry to say so, more attention on the Continent than in England. This memoir was translated into French and German, and was even circulated in St. Petersburgh, where an attempt was made to imitate the plan. It has had considerable attention in Germany. Such itinerating libraries, called there Wanderbibliotheken, have been very much employed. Oberlin had previously tried a similar plan in Switzerland with very great advantage.

309. Mr. *Charteris.*] What is the name of the author of that pamphlet?—The Rev. William Brown.

310. Mr. *Hamilton.*] What is the date of the attempt of which it speaks?—The attempt began in 1816, and was carried on up to the death of the originator with great success, but since his death, about 10 years ago, it has not met with the same amount of zealous exertion to continue it, but still there are in the Lothians a great many libraries upon the same principle.

311. *Chairman.*] Was not it a cheap system of circulating books?—Yes; the writer says, "A second important feature of those libraries is their cheapness. This is of importance in every scheme of benevolence, but especially in a scheme which it is desirable should be carried forward on an extensive scale. When the object is to supply, not a single town or village with a library, but a whole country or a whole kingdom, cheapness comes to be a primary desideratum. A single library of 50 volumes, with book-case, catalogue, labels, advertisements, and issuing books, may be procured for from 10*l.* to 12*l.*; but the cost will, of course, depend in a considerable degree on the kind of books wanted, and whether they have been recently published. Very good divisions may be selected for from 8*l.* to 10*l.* Taking the medium of these rates, namely, 10*l.*, the following number of libraries might be established for the sum stated: one for a village, 10*l.*; five for a district of villages, 50*l.*; 50 for a county, 500*l.* Supposing the books in those libraries to be read, on an average, annually, in the proportion which has just been stated, namely, five times for each volume, this, in 20 years, the period which a library is found to last, will amount to 100 issues for every volume, or 5,000 issues for the whole of the books in each library, and 250,000 issues for the whole of the books in 50 libraries." He continues: "Originally all the libraries were entirely gratuitous; a small box was merely attached to each library to afford the readers an opportunity of giving any small donation they might think proper, but some years ago a plan was adopted of keeping new books at Haddington, for the use of all persons who gave a small annual subscription to the value of double the amount of their whole contributions, and the plan was extended to North Berwick and Dunbar;" those who had new books were to pay a small subscription; those who had old books were to have them gratuitously.

312. Mr. *Charteris.*] You have read an extract from that pamphlet to the effect, that old books are circulated gratuitously; how are the expenses of the library defrayed?—By subscription; it was entirely a benevolent enterprise. Mr. Brown's own idea was, that if that plan of affording a good supply of new books to persons who were able to pay for them were carried out to some considerable extent, the profit of it would entirely defray the cost of itinerating libraries for those who could not afford to pay for them.

313. *Chairman.*] Have you ever inquired into the subject of the old cathedral libraries of this country connected with the deans and chapters; there are such old libraries, are there not?—I have made some inquiries upon that point, and I find that in seven at least of the cathedral libraries, namely, Canterbury, York, Chester, Durham, Norwich, Peterborough, and Rochester, by a recent regulation, all persons bringing some guarantee for their respectability are admitted to read freely, though these are libraries which are entirely the property of the deans and chapters, and are not in any sense public. The cathedral libraries of Bristol, Carlisle, Lincoln, Salisbury, and Worcester, are confined to the use of the clergy. I have seen a recent letter from the Dean of Wells, in which he says they are endeavouring to devise a plan by which the library at Wells may be made publicly accessible under proper regulations. I would also mention that I have been recently informed, by Edward Hoare, esq. of Cork, that there is a strong contrast to the spirit of liberality which so many of the English deans and chapters have evinced, in the case of a cathedral library at Cork. He states that it was founded in 1723, by Archdeacon Pomeroy, for public use, and that it has never been accessible to the public within his recollection, or that of any person living in

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in Cork, and that in fact it is totally neglected. If that statement be strictly correct, as I cannot doubt, from the character and position of my informant, it is clearly a case of abuse.

314. Viscount *Ebrington.*] Are the cathedral libraries supplied with new books; is there any fund for their maintenance and increase?—In the case of some of them there are endowments left by the founders or benefactors of cathedral libraries. In other cases, subscriptions are made among the members of the chapters for that purpose.

315. Mr. *Mackinnon.*] You mentioned just now that you considered that education was inferior in England to what it is abroad?—In relation to a certain class of the population.

316. To what classes of society do you particularly refer in England as being inferior in point of education to those on the Continent?—I would say, comparing England with many of the German States, that there are two classes of the population which are inferior, the agricultural peasantry, and to a less extent, but still to a considerable extent, the population of many of the great towns. I would refer particularly to some remarkable reports upon that subject which have been made by the Statistical Society of Manchester clearly showing that fact; and also to inquiries still more recent.

317. Could you assign at all to the Committee the cause of that deficiency?—I think one great cause of it is the want of means on the part of large numbers of the population to defray the cost of schooling for their children even where there is a desire to do it. Another cause is the extreme duration of the hours of labour and the extremely early age at which young persons are forced to do something towards gaining a livelihood; and another, the great deficiency of good schools and of properly trained schoolmasters. I think all those are causes tending very much, of necessity, to abridge educational facilities, and ought to be remedied.

318. Do you consider that there are more ample means among the lower classes abroad than in England, for the purposes of education?—With regard to the German States, I would state that, unhesitatingly. I have given considerable attention to the subject in past years, though I have not turned my thoughts to it for the purpose of this examination.

319. You stated just now that the lower classes, particularly in the manufacturing towns, had scarcely time from their great occupation to attend to education. In the event of there being libraries, do you think they could spare the time necessary to obtain more information from them?—I would rather illustrate that statement a little. I think, in addition to the positive want of schooling on the part of large numbers of the population who are now growing up, those who do get some partial education, habitually neglect to improve what they get, from the want of cultivating a taste for reading. I think that is one great cause, and unless good books are made accessible, it is very likely to continue to be a cause, even where education, by Sunday schools, and other efforts of that kind, has been brought within the reach of considerable numbers of the population, why the good effect has not been continued in after life.

320. Therefore your opinion is, that in proportion as education increases the facility of obtaining books ought to be increased also?—Yes.

321. Otherwise they will get bad books instead of good?—Yes; and to a great extent that has followed. In some of the great towns I believe it will be found that persons may really have derived injury from what ought to have been an inestimable benefit to them.

322. Mr. *Charteris.*] Have you turned your attention to the state of education in Scotland?—Yes.

323. Do you think the state of education in Scotland is inferior to that of the Continent, having regard to the classes of the people to which you have referred?—I think, on the contrary, it would be found to be far superior to the condition of a great many continental states.

324. Sir *H. Verney.*] The peasantry in East Lothian do you not think to be far superior, in point of education, to that of the German States?—Yes; but I should state at the same time that East Lothian is not an average specimen of Scotland.

325. Mr. *Charteris.*] To what do you attribute that superiority on the part of East Lothian?—I think very much to the wise and provident foresight of preceding generations, who had taken legislative measures to bring schools almost over the length and breadth of two-thirds of Scotland, making efforts to secure their

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their permanence, and not committing them merely to the chances and hazards of voluntary effort and occasional local subscriptions, but really providing them by legislative measures.

326. *Chairman.*] Do you think libraries superadded to such a scholastic system would be of great use in Scotland?—Of great importance, and I do not believe a more prudent or a more wise subsidiary measure could be taken with reference to education, than to connect with schools lending libraries of a good kind.

327. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] You spoke of the cost of education to the working classes; are you aware what is the ordinary subscription to a mechanics' institution?—I think the subscription varies from 5 *s.* up to 1 *l.* per annum. The amount varies very much in different places; the lowest I remember is about 5 *s.*

328. Did you ever calculate what that would be a week?—A very small sum indeed.

329. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Have you turned your attention to the statistics of education in Ireland?—I have made a printed statement on the subject within the last two or three years, but I cannot bring the results to my memory just now. I would say, generally speaking, I believe Ireland to be in a far inferior condition to Scotland, and to some extent inferior to England, for the most part.

330. Viscount *Ebrington.*] Do you believe there are many lending libraries in Ireland accessible to the people?—There are none of a public kind supported by public funds; private benevolence may have sustained many, and I believe does so.

331. Mr. *Bunbury.*] With regard to cathedral libraries, have you any information, general or statistical, as to the character of those libraries. Can you state whether they are for the most part confined to theological works, or are they of a general nature?—I believe the majority of them are very much confined to theology; but some of them, for instance Durham, are materially increased by the purchase of new books in many classes of literature. In Durham there is another library of a very valuable character, founded by Bishop Cosin, for the clergy of that diocese, separate from the cathedral library.

332. Are you aware of the existence of libraries attached to churches in other than cathedral towns?—There are many. I hope before the labours of this Committee terminate to be enabled to give them better information upon that head than I am able to supply now.

333. *Chairman.*] Can you give the Committee any information with respect to parochial or village libraries?—I can. I can mention three instances of old parochial libraries; I will mention one instance of an old parochial library which has fallen into desuetude, but which was evidently intended for public use at a very small town to which I often go in the autumn, Whitchurch, in Hants; there is an old library in a room attached to the church; there may be several hundred volumes of books, some of them curious and valuable. There is one which is a very curious book to find in a little village in Hampshire; it is an early Sclavonic bible, which is said to have belonged to John Selden. In that library there is a notice-board, which appears to be about a century and a quarter old, stating that all persons taking away books must deposit their value, showing that it was a public library at some period or other. There is no endowment for its support, and it has fallen into almost total neglect and disuse.

334. Have you known any instances of libraries which were falling into disuse having been revived and rendered available for public use?—There is an instance of that kind in Beccles, in Suffolk, which is another old parochial library, similar to that of Whitchurch in point of foundation and intent, which had also fallen into great neglect. In 1835 that library is described to me, by a member of the University of Cambridge who visited it, to have been in a very lamentable condition; but he says, in 1840, he went there again, and found a room in the town of good size, well fitted with a large number of good books. A beginning had been made by transferring the church library, under proper conditions, and adding to it so as to make it a permanent and increasing library. That is one instance of an old parochial library being turned to good account when attention had been drawn to it.

335. Was that a library accessible to the public?—I believe at the present time it is only accessible to those who have helped to bring it into an improved condition by subscription. At Hereford, again, there is an old parochial library, which is called the Vicars Choral Library; that contains, I believe, some very valuable

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valuable books. I cannot state its precise extent, but I believe it to have been founded, or mainly founded, by a public subscription 200 years ago. That has entirely ceased to be publicly accessible.

336. Are there parochial libraries founded about the time of the Reformation?—I think there are some which date as early as that. I am not aware of a great many.

337. Do you think the Commissioners appointed to inquire into public charities under Lord Brougham's Commission, directed their attention to libraries connected with any of those public charities?—I have recently searched the Reports with the express object of discovering some mention of old libraries, but I have been able to find very few notices of such, and those few extremely meagre. It seems to me that they must have almost entirely neglected to inquire into that class of foundations.

338. They might have inquired into the foundations, but they did not report upon the libraries?—Not so far as I am able to speak to.

339. Can you give an instance of any of those old charitable foundations which have libraries attached to them?—There is one at Kirk Leatham, in Yorkshire, a library founded a considerable period since, attached to an old hospital.

340. Have you turned your attention to the formation of village libraries of more recent institution?—I am aware that many praiseworthy attempts have been made recently to institute libraries in villages, very much I think by the efforts of clergymen, but I am not able to give the Committee any precise information with respect to the extent to which that object has been accomplished.

341. Now that books are so cheap, would not they be of easy establishment, and very desirable for the rural population?—Highly desirable, I think.

342. Mr. *Kershaw*.] Has your attention been drawn at all to the establishment of libraries, in connexion with churches and chapels?—Yes, I am aware that a library has become a very frequent addition to chapels, and also to churches, but those libraries are confined to the members of the respective congregations. They are purely congregational libraries.

343. But you think that there are libraries in connexion with most churches and chapels both in town and in country districts?—Yes; in connexion with many.

344. Especially as connected with Sunday schools?—Yes, a considerable number, and attended with very good results.

345. *Chairman*.] By what means do you think the formation of new public libraries in this country might best be promoted?—The first means I can recommend would be the extension of the Museums Act.

346. What is the Museums Act?—An Act recently introduced into Parliament by the Chairman of this Committee, and another honourable member.

347. Will you state the object of the Museums Act?—The object of the Museums Act was to levy a rate for the establishment of museums, proceeding upon a requisition or resolution of a definite proportion of the ratepayers assembled in public meeting, such rate not to exceed a halfpenny in the pound upon the rental of the district.

348. Mr. *Bunbury*.] Can you give any information to the Committee whether that Act has been extensively taken advantage of?—I fear that it has not been largely taken advantage of, and I would attribute that to the circumstance that no provision has been made for bringing a Parliamentary grant in aid of local contribution, as is done in educational matters, but everything has been made to depend upon local effort. I can cite one instance of its being acted on with reference also to a library. In Warrington, in Lancashire, there is now a museum and library, partly supported by a halfpenny rate, levied by the town council under the Museum Act, which produces about 80*l.* per annum, and partly by annual subscriptions, which are already promised to the extent of about 70*l.*; there is also a fund subscribed for the erection of a building at some future opportunity, and in the mean time interest upon so much as is paid up, about 250*l.*, is applied towards the payment of rent for a temporary building. That library was originally a private subscription library, founded in 1760. The use of it was restricted to the subscribers only. Subsequently they admitted a class of reading members at a smaller subscription; but the library fell into neglect, and about 10 years ago the proprietors surrendered their right to the subscribers generally. The subscriptions was reduced to 10*s.* 6*d.*, but the library continued to decay

until last year, when it was merged by the body of subscribers in the Warrington Museum and Library.

349. Is that library widely accessible?—Yes, it is widely accessible to all the inhabitants of Warrington.

350. *Chairman.*] Has the result been good?—The result has been very satisfactory, though it is only a recent experiment; this was only done about 18 months ago.

351. In this case, advantage has been taken of the present Act, to form or maintain not only a museum, but a library also?—Yes; and that library has now between 4,000 and 5,000 volumes; but for the Museums Act, it would have been totally neglected.

352. Mr. *Kershaw.*] The Museums Act does not authorize the levying of a rate by a town council, for the formation of a public library, does it?—It does not; and this library could not have been assisted, except from the fact that it was part of a museum.

353. Sir *H. Verney.*] Do you think it desirable to extend that power to other districts where town councils do not exist?—I think it would be highly desirable, and that otherwise very little good can be done.

354. Can you give the Committee any idea of what districts, or what bodies you would intrust with such a power?—I think the best principle would be to take the circumscription of the Parliamentary boroughs generally, and give a power to a certain proportion of the ratepayers in every such Parliamentary borough. I think the principle should be the expressed consent of a definite proportion of the ratepayers, and that there should be a similar power to that given to town councils by the Museums Act. The principle might also be extended to parishes, or poor-law unions; or the circumscriptions of the Public Health Bill might be taken.

355. *Chairman.*] Have you ever turned your attention to the expediency of a grant being made by Parliament, to assist in the formation of libraries, as is done in the case of Schools of Design?—I think that very important; I think the principle upon which the grants of the Privy Council for education are made would be an excellent principle to be extended to libraries; namely, that in any district where a certain amount of local contribution was raised for the purpose of founding a library, a Parliamentary grant should be given in aid.

356. Would not a very trifling grant suffice for that purpose; would not a very trifling sum, in your opinion, do a great deal of good?—I think so; it would be a great stimulus to individual subscription.

357. Small sums would do great good, in your opinion?—I think very much good. The experience of educational grants has been that just in proportion as Parliament has been more liberal, local effort has been more liberal; larger sums have been raised by voluntary subscription.

358. Do you not think that if a grant on the same principle as that given to Schools of Design were given to libraries, it would effectually promote the extension of libraries?—I think it would be of very great service indeed, and would be found to be a powerful stimulus to local effort. I think also, another means by which the foundation of libraries might be encouraged, would be promoting national interchanges of books.

359. Do not you think that if you once established local libraries, either by a rate or by a Parliamentary grant, great accessions would be made to those libraries by donations?—I think there is abundant reason for that opinion in past experience.

360. Can you give the Committee any information with respect to the system of interchanges of books between some of the public libraries of France and those of the United States of America?—Interchanges of that kind have been carried on to a very considerable extent. I believe the first impulse to it was given by the exertions of a private individual, M. Alexander Vattemare, who, in 1836, petitioned the Chamber of Deputies, setting forth the great advantages which would result from an interchange of those duplicate books which were possessed to a large extent by French libraries, and public bodies, with the libraries or governments of foreign countries, so as to obtain books in return, which would be of utility in French libraries. The Chamber of Deputies welcomed that proposition, and made a grant for its execution. He then proceeded to America, and addressed Congress. Congress received the proposition very favourably, and immediately set apart 50 copies of all public documents of every kind for such an object.

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object. Several of the State legislatures imitated that example, and a great many societies also contributed. Those books were sent from America to France; and very large returns, returns far beyond the value of what had been received, were sent from France to America. That system of interchange has gone on ever since; and now, in the library of the town-hall at Paris you may see some large compartments, which have inscriptions over them, to the effect that all the books contained therein are presents from different legislatures and public bodies in America. In 1847, not less than 10,000 volumes of books were sent from France for presentation in America, including several copies of Napoleon's magnificent "Description of Egypt."

361. Are you aware of any similar interchanges being made between this country and any foreign countries?—To a much more limited extent; the most considerable interchanges which have been made, I believe to have been between the libraries of the House of Lords and the House of Commons and the French Chambers; but considerable donations have been received by the British Museum from some of the individual States of America. From the States of Vermont, New York, Indiana, and Maine, a large number of public documents have been received; but the Museum has had very little to return, so that they have been almost purely donations. The King of Sardinia has also sent a remarkable number of valuable works to the Museum: state papers and public documents of every kind. Interchanges have also been effected between the legislature of New York and the Swedish government; and similar arrangements have been made, or are now making, with many German States.

362. The libraries of the Houses of Parliament have also interchanged books with the legislature of Belgium, have not they?—They have. I think such interchanges might be promoted at very little cost, and would meet with very liberal response abroad. In 1833 Lord John Russell introduced a Bill into Parliament for the purpose of exchanging one copy of every book published in the United Kingdom for one copy of every book published in France, but unfortunately that Bill fell through, owing to its injudicious mixture with the copyright business; the object of that Bill was to purchase of the University of Aberdeen the right they enjoyed under the old Copyright Act, and to transfer the copies which that University was entitled to receive to France, giving the University compensation, and receiving from France copies of all books published there.

363. Do you approve of the principle of that part of the Copyright Act which directs the compulsory delivery, by authors or publishers, of copies of every book published within the United Kingdom for the benefit of certain libraries?—The Legislature having repeatedly affirmed the principle that books should be contributed by authors and publishers in aid of public libraries, it may, perhaps, be thought undesirable to re-open the question, but I must say, that in my individual opinion, such enactments are based upon a bad principle; I think the growth and increase of public libraries is a national object, and ought to be met by national funds, and that no tax ought to be levied upon a section of the public for the benefit of the whole of the public.

364. Especially upon the producers of books?—Least of all upon the producers of books. Even now, although the Legislature a few years ago reduced the number of copies so exacted from 11 to 5, it is an oppressive tax, especially as some considerable portion of the books so exacted go to libraries which are not public.

365. Will you state to the Committee the origin of the Copyright Act, and the amendments which have been subsequently made in it?—I believe that in England the origin of the exaction was first of all a private agreement between Sir Thomas Bodley and the Stationers' Company, in 1610, and that afterwards that agreement was recognized by the Legislature. I think in 1637 there is a decree of the Star Chamber which enforces the delivery, which had been much neglected. The Copyright Acts expressly recognizing that principle by statute date from 1663, when three copies were levied; those three copies were subsequently increased to 11.

366. Was the original object of the exaction a kind of censorship of the books, do you think?—There had been still earlier than 1610, an exaction of one copy from every printer, which was purely for the purposes of the censorship of the press; and I would say that in almost every European country this practice of exacting copies is still a matter of censorship; some copies go to the library, and

others to the censor of the press. In some countries upon the abolition of the censorship the custom of exacting copies has been abolished.

367. Mr. *Charteris.*] On the Continent, does the practice of exacting books from authors still prevail generally?—It prevails nowhere to the same extent as it does in England, except in Lombardy and Venice, and in Parma; two of the worst governed countries in Europe. In Belgium three copies are exacted; in France, Austria, Denmark, Naples, and Geneva, two copies; in Prussia, Saxony, Bavaria, Holland, Tuscany, Sardinia, Portugal, Hungary, Bohemia, and the United States, only one copy. In several of the Swiss cantons copies were formerly exacted, but when the censorship of the press was abolished, that exaction ceased.

368. *Chairman.*] What libraries in the United Kingdom formerly received books under the Copyright Act; when was that Act amended, and what libraries receive them now?—The Act was amended in 1836, by the 6th & 7th of William the 4th, c. 110.

369. What libraries received books prior to that amendment?—The British Museum, Sion College in London, the Bodleian Library at Oxford, the University Library at Cambridge, the library of Trinity College, Dublin, the library of King's Inns, Dublin, the library of the Faculty of Advocates in Edinburgh, and the libraries of the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and St. Andrew's, making eleven in all.

370. The Copyright Amendment Act restricted the number of copies claimable by those libraries to five?—Yes.

371. What were the enactments of that Act?—That Act abolished the privilege in respect to six out of 11 libraries; viz. to the libraries of the four Scotch Universities; the library of King's Inns, Dublin; and the library of Sion College, London, retaining the privilege to only five libraries, and with regard to the remaining six, it substituted a money grant from the Treasury, varying in amount, the highest being that granted to Glasgow of 707 *l.*; to St. Andrew's, 630 *l.*; to Edinburgh, 575 *l.*; to the King's Inns Library, at Dublin, 433 *l.*; to Sion College, London, 363 *l.*; and to the University of Aberdeen, 320 *l.*; so that a great inequality exists; the highest receives 707 *l.* and the lowest 320 *l.*

372. What is the total amount which is received annually by those libraries?—I believe 3,068 *l.*

373. Can you state the total amount which has been contributed to libraries under that Act?—I think the Act has subsisted for 13 years, therefore the amount received has been 36,432 *l.*

374. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Are you aware that that Act was not extended to the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, in consequence of some difference as to the amount of compensation?—I think they refused to accept compensation, or at least opposed it. There was an indisposition to any change on the part of both universities.

375. *Chairman.*] Do you think that the exaction of books as a tax upon authors, or that the reception of money from the State as an equivalent for such books should involve the right of free access by the public to the libraries which are so provided with books or with money?—Most unquestionably; a library which accepts a Treasury grant of that nature does make itself a public library, and ought to be considered as a public library, and to be responsible for being such in practice.

376. Do you think that libraries which receive books from authors should be so?—Certainly.

377. Are you aware of any applications which have been made by the inhabitants of towns in which such libraries are situated, to be allowed to read the books in them, which they are prohibited from doing now by the owners of those libraries?—I have before me a correspondence which was recently entered into with the librarian of the King's Inns Library, requesting to know whether by a certain Return laid before the House of Commons, expressed as regards that library in somewhat vague terms, it was intended to mean that the King's Inns Library was publicly accessible. The reply was quite unsatisfactory.

378. Have you ever heard of any remonstrance having been made in Scotland, by persons who have not access to some of the libraries which received money from the public in the way you described?—Great dissatisfaction prevails upon that score, especially at Edinburgh and at Glasgow; access to the libraries of the Universities there is very difficult, and very restricted.

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379. At Aberdeen have you heard of such complaints?—Yes. I believe Aberdeen is somewhat more liberally managed than Glasgow; but the library of Aberdeen is not really accessible to the inhabitants of the town.

380. Do you think that the present law, with regard to copyright, is well framed for the attainment of its object?—No; even with regard to its express intention, I think it is framed in a very bungling manner; for example, the booksellers of Dublin, instead of delivering a book to Trinity College, may send it up to London, and force Trinity College to get it back at its own expense. I have known that to be done. Booksellers are often very much annoyed by the exaction, and obey the Act with great unwillingness, and they sometimes put a library to expense and inconvenience, because they are dissatisfied with the enactment.

381–2. Would you suggest any modification of the law in this country?—I think it would be a very desirable thing to retain the power of exacting copies, but to grant the power of payment for them at the trade price of the books delivered, at least in all instances where payment shall be requested.

383. You would by that means have certain great repositories of books in the country, which would contain, in fact, all the books which are published, and yet no injustice would be done to authors?—Yes, I think it highly desirable that there should be public depositories of all books which appear in the United Kingdom, but that being a national object it ought to be done at the national expense.

384. Mr. *Mackinnon*.] Would you include every work that is published?—Yes; but I would add to that answer, that I believe it is very undesirable for university libraries to receive every book which is published, and that practically, when the university libraries did receive all the books, they wasted and destroyed a great many because they were really of no value to them.

385. Mr. *Charteris*.] Can you form any idea of the annual value of books published in the United Kingdom?—During the last 10 years there have been published in the United Kingdom 31,395; the estimated value of one copy of each of which, taken at publication price, is 13,420 *l*. I will put in a table, with the permission of the Committee, which will give full information on that subject.

[*The Witness delivered in the same, which is as follows:*]

TABLE showing the Number of VOLUMES published within the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, during each of the last Ten Years, 1839–48, with their aggregate Value at the Publication Price.

YEAR.	New Works.	Reprints.	Value of New Works at Retail Publication Price, averaging 8 *s.* 9½ *d.*	Value of the Reprints and New Editions at Retai Publication Price, average 8½ *d.*	TOTAL VALUE.
	Volumes.	*Volumes.*	£. *s.* *d.*	£. *s.* *d.*	£. *s.* *d.*
1839	2,302	773	966 11 2	296 7 8	1,262 19 –
1840	2,091	821	943 3 3	327 16 10	1,271 – 1
1841	2,011	741	902 5 9	314 12 7	1,216 18 4
1842	2,193	684	968 2 6	295 9 6	1,263 12 –
	11,616		£. 5,014 9 3		
1843	About - 2,400 - - -		- - 8/6 1,020 – –		
1844	— - 3,134 - - -		- - - 1,331 19 –		
1845	— - 3,185 - - -		- - - 1,353 12 6		
1846	— - 3,520 - - -		- - - 1,496 – –		
1847	— - 3,637 - - -		- - - 1,545 14 –		
1848	— - 3,903 - - -		- - - 1,658 15 6		
	Total 10) 31,395		Total Value - 13,420 10 3		
	Average - 3,139½ vols. per ann.		Average - - 1,342 1 –		

386. *Chairman*.] What has been the total number of books published in Germany?—In 1846 about 11,600 separate works, inclusive of pamplets. In 1847 about 11,400; and last year, about 10,500.

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387. And in France?—In 1842, 6,445 separate works, inclusive of pamphlets; and in 1847, 5,530.

388. Does the British list include pamphlets?—It is exclusive of pamphlets; it contains new works, and new editions and reprints of old books, but it does not contain pamphlets nor periodical publications.

389. Are there any existing fiscal arrangements which you deem to be impediments to the formation of public libraries?—I think there are many, and I will instance as the first of those, the import duty upon foreign books. I believe that to be a most unwise and impolitic tax. It has been considerably reduced, in relation to certain classes of books, but it is still an oppressive duty, and one which operates materially to the enhancement of the price of foreign books; it amounted in 1841 to 8,500 *l.* I believe it now amounts to a considerable sum, so that it still operates greatly to increase the price of foreign books. The present duty has been computed to be equivalent to an *ad valorem* tax of 12 per cent. on the average. In no other country, so far as I am aware, has so heavy a tax been levied upon foreign books.

390. Mr. *Bunbury*.] Do you know what the amount of *ad valorem* reduction of duty effected by the late change was?—It was a diminution of six sevenths on all books printed in Prussia, Hanover, Saxony, and the Saxon principalities, those being countries with which we have international copyright conventions. What the average *ad valorem* reduction would be if computed on all the books imported, I am not able to state. On a future occasion I will be prepared to submit to the Committee more precise statements on this subject.

391. I have understood from a German bookseller, that with regard to German books he thought it had made a difference of 20 per cent.; do you believe it to be so large as that?—I should think that would be the extreme. In the United States of America the tax amounts to 10 per cent., in Belgium to 3 per cent., in Austria to 2 per cent., in France to 1 per cent., and in most of the German States, in Holland, in Denmark, and in Norway, books are imported duty free, so that we have a far more oppressive tax imposed upon us than exists in any other country.

392. *Chairman*.] Is not that tax a very serious matter in its effects upon education, there being so many books connected with education published in Germany?—Yes, I believe the injury is very much greater than would appear from the mere amount of the impost; in addition to the actual duty there is a profit upon that duty: I believe also it operates to make books of more difficult access. You would get books more freely, and without the necessity of waiting for them, if there were no duty levied; certainly the revenue would not be injured to any appreciable extent by the abolition of that duty altogether; and the other reasons which have been alleged in its favour, would have no force were our excise duty on paper abolished.

393. Is the paper duty an objectionable fiscal regulation which prevents the extension of the circulation of books?—I think so. With reference to the object of increasing the number of public libraries, every tax which tends to reduce the number of good books is a positive injury and a serious impediment. I have taken Mr. M'Culloch's calculation of the relative amount of duties paid upon an ordinary average book. Take 500 copies of an octavo volume of 500 pages, that will cost about 176 *l.*; out of that there will be nearly 16 *l.* paid to the revenue; the cost of paper will be 32 *l.*, and there will be duty 4 *l.* 16 *s.* upon it, even under the present reduced duties. The advertisements will cost, perhaps, 40 *l.*, one-fourth of that goes to the revenue, so that altogether about one-ninth of the cost of producing such a volume will be paid in taxation.

394. Do you think that the duty on advertisements also operates unfavourably to the circulation of books?—I think it is a very great detriment; it is a most important item in the cost of the production of books; and the payment to the revenue bears a very large proportion to the total cost.

395. Are there advertisement duties in any country besides this?—They are nowhere so heavy.

396. There are none in the United States, are there?—There is no duty upon advertisements at all there.

397. Has not that been a very great advantage indeed to the circulation, not only of literature, but of articles of interchange and sale, in the United States?—Yes.

398. What is the amount of the duty on advertisements?—£. 170,000.

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399. *Lord Advocate.*] There is no means that you know of of separating the duty on advertisements of books from other advertisements, is there?—No.

400. Is the duty paid according to the length of the advertisement?—No; the rate of charge to the advertiser depends upon the length, but the amount of the duty is uniformly 1 *s.* 6 *d.* for each advertisement; the calculation I have given is the statement of Mr. M'Culloch in his Dictionary of Commerce, and I think it is a very fair one.

401. Have you verified that statement at all?—I have.

402. And so far as you have done it you think it correct?—I do.

403. *Chairman.*] Can you offer any suggestion to the Committee with regard to the increased utility of existing libraries?—I think the step which lies at the threshold of all improvement in this respect is an entire revision of the conditions on which the Treasury grants are accorded, requiring that accessibility should be made an indispensable condition of such grants, and that the libraries receiving them should be placed under some definite supervision and responsibility. I think it would be very desirable also that any existing libraries, which are disposed to place themselves under the inspection, for example, of the Committee of Council on Education, which is perhaps the body most analogous to that Ministry of Public Instruction, which I hope we shall have some day, should be enabled to do so; and in case of their own resources being deficient, that they should obtain some grants under the Committee of Council in aid of those resources. I think by that means great improvements would in time be effected. But I believe, looking at the difficulties which some of the best of the few libraries which do exist in this country are in, from inadequate resources, that at present no improvement of any important amount can be hoped for, except upon the condition of Parliamentary aid being extended to them, in cases where public utility is clearly seen to be promoted by those existing institutions. I think, too, such aid should especially be afforded, with regard to the preparation of catalogues, upon which the utility of libraries entirely depends, scarcely any of the existing libraries having now any resources at all by means of which catalogues can be printed and published; and unless catalogues are printed and published the libraries themselves can never be of great public utility. In a communication I recently saw from the Provost of Aberdeen, with reference to this question, he suggested that the greatest good which could be done to Aberdeen would be to make a grant in aid of the publication of a good classed-catalogue of the libraries which now exist there; those of King's College and Marischal College; and that there are no local resources which can possibly meet such an expenditure.

404. You would make the preparation and printing of catalogues a great State object?—It is an object of great public utility, and one which the existing means even of well regulated libraries are totally unable to accomplish.

405. Supposing you had the catalogues of provincial libraries by some means centralized in London, a person then would be able to have reference to them, and could ascertain from them where any particular book might be found, of which he might be in search?—Yes, I think that catalogues so prepared and printed would be a valuable addition to other libraries over and above their value to persons frequenting the particular libraries to which they might relate.

406. Mr. *Charteris.*] Have you made any calculation as to the period when the catalogue which is now in preparation of the British Museum will be completed?—I believe there is reason to hope that we shall see the completion of it about the year 1854, at the present rate of proceeding.

407. Will that include all the books in the Museum at that time?—The intercalation of all additions that have been made to the library during the progress of this new catalogue, will become a mere matter of mechanical arrangement. The titles will exist, and they will only need to be intercalated with the general mass of the titles.

408. Do you think the system at present pursued in most of our libraries of requiring recommendations or letters of introduction before granting admission to their use is necessary for their protection from loss and injury?—I was strongly of that opinion formerly, but upon thinking of the matter more closely, and making a comparison of the results of what occurs here, and what occurs abroad, I am inclined to change that opinion, and to think that the system is not really necessary, though probably if very free accessibility were granted a revision of the existing regulations, and some considerable modification of them would become necessary.

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409. Has injury resulted from unrestricted admission to those libraries which have given that unrestricted admission?—About 12 years ago the librarians of most of the principal libraries in Europe were questioned upon that point; those of Paris, Berlin, Brussels, Vienna, Dresden, Berne, Copenhagen, Florence, Gottingen, the Hague, Leyden, Cassel, Basle, Frankfort, Milan, Naples, Munich, Parma, Prague, Turin, Venice, and Wolfenbuttel, returned answers to the questions upon that point; 20 of these reported that no inconvenience had been found to result from their free and unrestricted accessibility; at the same time I think it necessary to add, that the circumstances of the majority of those cities and towns on the Continent are very different indeed from those of London; there would be much greater difficulty in organizing a system of libraries which should be entirely unrestricted in London than in any town on the Continent.

410. Do you believe that with respect to the great majority of those libraries on the Continent, though according to the existing rules and regulations they are freely accessible to the public, they are not frequented really by persons of the lower class?—No doubt that is the case, at least as regards very many of them.

411. *Lord Advocate.*] What do you mean by unrestricted accessibility to a library?—I mean the absence of any formality of recommendation or introduction, so that any one can go into the library and call for books without producing any warrant or ticket.

412. Of course that would involve a reading-room?—Certainly.

413. And such power of restraint as may be necessary for the proper preservation of the library?—Yes. I conceive that, although practical experience shows great injuries to have resulted, in some instances, from unrestricted access having been given to the public, such injury has arisen from the want of good regulations; for instance, persons have been allowed to help themselves to books from the library.

414. Mr. *Mackinnon.*] Would it be possible to adopt such a principle in London, do you think, as that of unrestricted access to a library?—I have more difficulty in answering that question in the affirmative with respect to London than with respect to any other city in Great Britain. In any other case but London I should feel no difficulty in answering the question in the affirmative; in London there may be, perhaps, difficulty from the enormous extent of the population.

415. Do you think it would answer in the other large towns of this empire?—I feel no hesitation in saying that the experiment might very safely be tried at all events.

416. Would not it be dangerous unless you had one person to watch each individual?—I think we have seen that in the increased accessibility which has been accorded in museums and galleries of art, the very number of the persons frequenting them has become a safeguard to the property.

417. *Lord Advocate.*] To a certain extent they operate as a mutual police?—Precisely, and that would be the case in a library.

418. Mr. *Mackinnon.*] Though where there are so many a man would be most likely to be seen who touched or took anything valuable out of the Museum, yet in books would not the case be different. Supposing a man wished to take a valuable print out of a book, might not he do so without being observed by others?—I do not think it would be difficult to construct reading-rooms in such a way as that they might be under good supervision. They might be brought under a central supervision, which would be quite adequate even in the case of a very large influx of persons.

319. Mr. *Charteris.*] Provided the accommodation were ample, and the staff for supervision sufficient, you think there would be no difficulty in rendering the library of the British Museum, for instance, accessible to the public as freely as those abroad?—I think it would require a considerable increase of the present staff, and necessitate a considerable increase of expenditure, but if those conditions were accorded I think no insuperable difficulty would be found.

420. *Lord Advocate.*] Is not the library of the British Museum now nearly as accessible as any of the great libraries of Europe?—It is very accessible, but not to nearly the same extent as the great libraries of the Continent.

421. In the first place, with respect to catalogues, are there many great foreign libraries which have catalogues open to the inspection of the public?—There is a great deficiency in that respect in many of the continental libraries. I am afraid it is only a minority of those libraries in which such catalogues exist open to the public.

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422. Do you happen to know how many large continental libraries there are which have catalogues at all which are accessible to the public?—I could not from memory enumerate them with precision, but I may venture to say, that out of 25 great libraries there would be 10 at least in which good catalogues are accessible, and some others in which catalogues would be accessible, but which would be found to be very imperfect and of very little use.

423. Do you happen to know if it is a common thing, for instance, in those great continental libraries, that a person should go in and give the name of the book he requires, and that it should be given out to him immediately, on the same day, and in the course of a few minutes; or is it not a very general course, a course pursued even in the Royal Library in Paris, that notice of the book must be given the day before, and that the service takes place the next day?—In the National Library of Paris I have myself received books within half an hour of my applying for them, but not always.

424. Did they know who you were?—Not at all.

425. Do you know the general course of service there?—I only know it from description; my experience has not been extensive.

426. Have they a printed catalogue which is accessible to the public there?—There are catalogues which are accessible, but they are very far indeed from being perfect or adequate.

427. They are not at all adequate, are they?—Very inadequate indeed.

428. Mr. *Bunbury*.] At the Munich Library, which ranks next to the Paris Library in extent, there is a catalogue perfectly accessible to the public; do you know whether it is a complete catalogue?—I believe it is a very good catalogue. I have never been in Munich, but I have heard repeatedly that the Royal Library at Munich is admirably managed.

429. Mr. *Charteris*.] Are there ever any complaints made of the want of facility of access to the library of the British Museum?—There have been complaints, but I believe all men of letters will acknowledge that the accessibility was never so great, and the service of the establishment was never in such order, as it is now.

430. They are not of frequent occurrence?—They are not of frequent occurrence; and I think upon inquiry many of them would be found to be unreasonable.

431. Sir *H. Verney*.] Are you acquainted with the character of the library at Berlin?—The Berlin Library is an excellent library.

432. Are you aware that there is at Berlin a catalogue which is perfectly accessible to the public?—There is.

433. *Lord Advocate*.] Who is at the head of the Berlin Library now?—Dr. Pertz.

434. Do you happen to know what his opinions are about a printed catalogue?—I have heard them, but I do not recollect them now.

435. Would you be surprised to hear that his opinion is, that there is no greater waste of money than to print a full catalogue of a library?—I would listen to everything which fell from him with great respect, but at the same time I would feel no hesitation in confuting that opinion.

436. *Chairman*.] Has any injury resulted from unrestricted admission to those libraries which have granted it in England and Ireland?—I believe in past times in Chetham's Library, at Manchester, and in Marsh's Library, at Dublin, injury has resulted, but was entirely attributable to insufficient regulations; in both those libraries, persons were allowed to go into the library and take down the books themselves, and the books were unstamped, so that there was every facility for persons having improper intentions, to execute them.

437. Do you think it desirable that the books of public libraries should be lent out?—I think it very desirable, and that no greater boon than the institution of lending libraries could be conferred upon men of letters and students.

438. Is that the case abroad?—To a very great extent.

439. Do you think the practice has been attended with loss and disadvantage to the libraries in which it has existed?—I believe there are instances of it, but in most of the cases where cause for complaint has existed, it may be ascribed to the want of good regulations, and must not be taken as any necessary consequence of the practice.

440. Are you of opinion that the injurious results which in some cases may have accrued, might be obviated in future by better regulations?—I think entirely so; by good regulations with respect to the period, for instance, for which books

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are to be retained, and by insisting upon some voucher for the respectability of all persons applying to borrow books, libraries might be secured from any loss beyond that of the fair and reasonable wear and tear which must always be attendant upon such a system, and which I think constitutes no objection to it.

441. Do you think that persons seeking to borrow books should be called on to show their inability to consult them in the library itself?—I have heard that advocated as one means of checking abuse, but I do not think it would be expedient, especially with reference to persons who are engaged in literary tasks of considerable extent and duration; it is most important to allow them to have books in their own studies at home, and I think they ought not to be called on to show that they are absolutely incapacitated from coming to the library, because they cannot, in the library, use books to the same advantage as at their own homes.

442. Do you think the practice of lending should be restricted to such books as are possessed in duplicate by the respective libraries?—I think that ought to be so with regard to the great libraries now existing. But I hope to see new lending libraries established expressly directed to that object.

443. How many duplicates have you in the library of the British Museum?—I think about 52,000.

444. Have you any triplicate copies of books?—There are a considerable number.

445. Can you give the Committee the number of triplicate copies?—I cannot at this moment distinguish the triplicates from duplicates. In the number of 52,000, I believe both to be included.

446. You cannot give the Committee the proportion?—I can supply it, but not from memory.

447. Do you think the duplicate books of a public library, like that of the British Museum, would be more usefully disposed of by way of interchange with, or presentation to, other libraries, than by their appropriation as a lending collection?—I think in the instance of the British Museum, no better use could be made of the duplicates than by their employment as a lending library; but with respect to such books as exist in triplicate, many third copies, I think, might most usefully be presented to provincial libraries.

448. Or to form another library in London?—Or to form another library in London. If upon any grounds it should be thought undesirable, contrary to my own opinion, to establish a lending library at the British Museum, I think it would be most unwise and impolitic to allow the great mass of duplicates to remain there unused, and no advantage to be taken of them, but that they ought to be sent to provincial libraries. At present no use whatever is made of a considerable portion of that great mass of duplicates.

449. Are you of opinion that libraries ought to be open to the public during the evenings, particularly in a country like our own, where the day is devoted so much to the labour of the working classes of the population?—I think it would be a measure of great expediency and of great benefit, and that it would enable the working classes of the population to get access to the public libraries, who, unless some such change is introduced, must continue to be debarred from access to them; and I think it would also, in many cases, be of great advantage to professional men, and even to men whose profession is literature.

450. Can you speak to the results of such a practice in any public library in which it has been introduced?—I think there is no instance in England of the application of that principle to any considerable library; but there are instances abroad, and I believe that usually the results have been such as to be perfectly encouraging, and such as ought to lead to the imitation of the example.

451. In what libraries abroad has that practice been introduced?—The library at Ste. Génévieve, at Paris, is an instance. I cannot speak to that, however, from personal knowledge; I have never been in the library during the evening; but information might be obtained from much higher authority than myself with respect to that. The library of Strasburgh is another instance, and a very satisfactory one.

452. Do you think it is of still greater importance, that in a country like our own, in such a town as Manchester, for instance, where the whole day is devoted to toil, there should be accessibility during the evening to public libraries?—I think it would be of the greatest value. I believe, even apart from the direct instruction which may in that way be brought within the reach of the people, the means

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means of rational amusement, which would by that means be opened to them, would be exceedingly important. I believe the want of some provision, from the public resources, of amusements of a rational and improving character, has led to the introduction, to a large extent in our towns, of brutalizing and demoralizing amusements. In my opinion, something ought to have been done long before to obviate that evil, and the necessity that something of the kind should now be done is very urgent.

453. Have you any paper to give in to the Committee?—I will put in a table in addition to that which I put in at the last examination. (*The same was delivered in.*)

Vide Appendix.

454. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] You spoke of a definite supervision and responsibility as desirable in the management of public libraries; are you prepared to recommend any particular kind of responsibility?—I think the most desirable thing, and a thing I am not hopeless of seeing in England, will be a department specially charged with public instruction, dealing with all the relations of Government to public education; then I think the supervision of libraries would naturally be one of the attributions of that department; but in the meantime I think great good would result from giving some power of the kind to the Committee of the Privy Council, that being an existing institution already dealing with educational matters.

455. Do you refer to pecuniary responsibility?—No, I refer rather to a sort of periodical inspection as to the condition of libraries, with a power of revising their regulations, and making recommendations, with a view to increase their public usefulness.

456. *Chairman.*] You think with respect to all those institutions connected with literature and the arts, to which the country contributes in the way of annual votes, an account should be rendered, and a statement made by a minister on the part of the Government to the people?—Yes; I think great good would result from that.

457. So that the people should have the means of knowing the state of the literary institutions to which they contribute?—Yes.

458. You would apply that to all institutions connected with the arts, such as the National Gallery, and museums of different descriptions, and libraries, and everything, in fact, of an intellectual kind, to which the public money affords its contribution?—Yes, of an educational kind; and I believe such a statement would not be rendered many years in succession without an increase of the contributions in aid of those purposes, and great improvement in the administration of such grants when made.

459. And increased interest in such subjects on the part of the public?—Yes; I think it would excite increased co-operation in many quarters.

Monsieur *François Pierre Guillaume Guizot*; Examined.

Monsieur *F. P. G. Guizot.*

460. *Chairman.*] IN the distinguished positions which you have filled, both as Minister of Public Instruction and as Prime Minister in France—and also as an author—has your attention been turned to the public libraries of France?—It has.

460.* Can you inform the Committee of the number of libraries at present existing in France, to which the public have free access, or give a probable approximation to their number?—I cannot state to the Committee the exact number; during the time that I was in office, I ordered that an inspection of all public libraries should be made; that inspection was begun, and it has been continued, I believe, by my successors. The French government has now complete and exact documents relative to the number of public libraries in France, and to the number of books in every such public library, and I am quite sure if The House, or a Committee of The House, were to ask the French government for a communication to them of those documents, they would be communicated to them with very great pleasure. I should not wish to give a vague and uncertain answer to the question, which is all I could give, but I am quite sure the French government has such documents. A review of the public libraries, both as respects the books and the manuscripts in them, has been made in France, and such documents I have no doubt exist in the Office of Public Instruction at the present moment.

461. How far are libraries in France accessible to the public?—They are accessible in every way; they are accessible for the purpose of reading, and accessible too for the purpose of borrowing books. I could not certify that it is so

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so in every public library in France, but I am quite sure that in a great many of them the library is open to every one who comes to read, and the books are lent to every one who is a known person in the town, who has some public recommendation, or whose name and whose mode of living are known to the librarian. That is the general practice in France. I know more, especially as to some of the provincial libraries, particularly the library of my native town, which is Nismes, and the libraries of two or three other towns in which I lived, that in every one of those cases the books of those public libraries are lent to every known person in the town; it is a very general practice.

462. Any person, be he a workman or whatever his class or condition in society may be, going into a library in France, would have the book he asked for given to him to read, without any obstruction?—Yes, that is the general practice; but they would not lend books to every person, without any limitation.

463. Mr. *Charteris.*] Suppose a workman brought a certificate from his employer as to his being a respectable and honest man, would books be lent to him?—Yes, I am sure they would; upon a certificate of his employer that he was an honest and respectable man, books would be lent to him.

464. But they would not be lent to an ordinary workman without such a certificate?—I think not.

465. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Would your answer refer to books without any restriction as to their number or value?—No; very rare or very precious books would not be lent out of the library: but I refer to books of common use; they would be lent without difficulty. As to rare and precious books, the rule is, that those books do not go out of the library. To a very well-known person, a learned man, those books would be lent, but rarely, and not to every one who comes into the library asking for them. Even the manuscripts in the public libraries at Paris are sometimes lent to learned and very well-known persons, but not to any others.

466. Mr. *Charteris.*] There is a discretionary power vested in the librarian for that purpose?—Yes, in the keeper of the library there is a discretionary power.

467. *Chairman.*] Do you attribute good results to the literature and character of the people of France from the power of free access to such libraries?—Yes, very good results. There are two good results. The first is this: a general regard in the mind of the public for learning, for literature, and for books. That complete accessibility to the libraries gives to every one, learned or unlearned, a general feeling of goodwill for learning and for knowledge; and then the second result is, that the means for acquiring knowledge are given to those persons who are able to employ them. It is, of course, quite impossible for a private man to have in his own possession all the books he wants. He finds them, however, in the public libraries with the greatest facility. That has been of the greatest use in France, and productive of very good results to the general literature of the country.

468. Mr. *Mackinnon.*] Can an ordinary person come to the library and obtain access to those books without recommendation?—Yes, he may read in the library itself without any recommendation.

469. Whatever his condition of life may be?—If a beggar should come in in rags there might be some difficulty; but every respectable person would be admitted.

470. *Chairman.*] Are you aware how many of the provincial towns of France are provided or unprovided with libraries open to the public?—I cannot answer that question exactly, but I am sure you will find an answer in the documents of which I spoke just now. I think now the greater part of the provincial towns have public libraries; most of the provincial towns attach great importance to having a public library, and they take great pains with respect to it.

471. Have any steps been taken of late years to increase the number of public libraries in France, or to extend the accessibility of such as already exist?—Yes, steps have been taken for that purpose, and especially this step: the French government makes a subscription to almost every important work which is published. In the cases of works with fine engravings, or very learned and scientific works, the government takes a certain number of copies of those works, and distributes those copies in the most important provincial libraries. That is one mode of increasing the provincial libraries. The government itself distributing to them some copies of the books for which it has subscribed.

472. Mr. *Charteris.*] Are the expenses of the purchase of those copies included in the Parliamentary grants?—Yes; every year, the two Chambers, when they existed, voted a sum of 20,000 *l.*, or 25,000 *l.*, if my memory does not fail,

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fail, for those public subscriptions, for the purpose of giving to the government the power of subscribing to every important work which was published, and copies of those works were distributed among the provincial libraries.

473. *Chairman.*] Can you inform the Committee how many libraries receive pecuniary aid by annual grants of the Chambers, and what is the aggregate amount of such grants?—There are two modes in which public libraries are in the habit of receiving Parliamentary grants. There are four public libraries in Paris which, in a direct way, receive Parliamentary grants. The answer given by a former witness is quite correct upon that point. There are some libraries which receive Parliamentary grants in an indirect way; the library of the French Institute, for instance. All the expenses of the Institute are voted every year by the Chambers, and the expenses of the library are included with the other expenses of the French Institute. The library of the Institute is one of the richest and the best in Paris. That library has been formed by learned men, with a special view to general branches of learning, so that it is more complete and more scientifically formed than many of our libraries, and every year books are bought for the special purposes of science, and added to the library of the Institute. The funds for buying those books are voted every year by the Chambers. So as to the two libraries of the Chamber of Deputies and the Chamber of Peers, which are very good libraries, though not very large. The expenses of those libraries were voted every year by the two Chambers. As regards the library of the Chamber of Deputies, the Chamber voted every year, I think, 800 *l.* for buying books. The same sum, if I am not mistaken, was annually voted for the library of the Chamber of Peers. There are also indirect ways of voting funds for public libraries. The library of the School of Medicine is a large and well formed library, and the funds for the School of Medicine are voted every year by the Chamber, including grants for the library.

474. *Lord Advocate.*] There are a great many public records that are published in France under the direction of government, at the government expense, are there not?—Yes. The Chamber do not vote anything for the libraries in great towns; they are all supported by the municipal funds. The only way in which the Government assists in the formation of libraries in provincial towns is by distributing to them the copies of works for which it has subscribed.

475. Is not there a publication of the records of all your great towns going on in France now?—Some are published; I think the records of Lyons, of Toulouse, and of Rouen, and I should think, of some others of our great towns, are published.

476. Is that done at the expense of the government?—It is not done at the expense of the Government, it is at the expense of the town itself; it is a municipal expense.

477. *Chairman.*] Are the public libraries generally subject to the control or supervision of the Minister of Public Instruction, or is such control limited to the libraries which receive grants of public money?—No; the Minister of Public Instruction has the power of controlling, and visiting, and inspecting all public libraries, even where there is no public grant of money given to them; and I think now there are one or two general inspectors of all the public libraries in France, whose duty it is, every year, to travel through France, and to inspect all the public libraries.

478. How would you define a public library?—A public library is a library which belongs to a town, or to the government generally; which is accessible to the public, and the expenses of which are defrayed by the funds of the town or of the government in general; there are some special libraries which are not exactly public, such as the library of the Institute, the library of the Chamber of Deputies, and the library of the Chamber of Peers; and yet, though they cannot be called exactly public libraries, they are accessible to a great part of the public.

479. Mr. *Charteris.*] And they are supported by the public funds?—Yes.

480. *Chairman.*] Have the municipal councils in provincial cities and towns powers to levy rates, or to make grants for the support of the public libraries in their respective localities?—They do not levy rates especially for that purpose; the expenses of the provincial libraries are included in the general expenses of the town, in what we call the budget of the commune; but they can make grants in that budget, and they do make grants every year, for the support of their libraries.

481. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Do the municipal authorities make liberal grants for the

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the libraries in their respective towns ?—Yes; they have power to do it, and generally they do so.

482. In a liberal manner ?—It is very unequal; there are some towns which have a special attachment to learning, and a strong desire for the establishment of public libraries, such as Rouen, such as Bordeaux, such as Lyons and Montpellier; in those towns the municipal councils are very well disposed towards public libraries, and give very willingly grants for the purpose. But there are towns in which the libraries are almost shut; nobody goes to read there, and no grants have been given to them.

483. I suppose in the present state of France the authorities may consider it of very great importance that public opinion should be enlightened ?—Quite so.

484. More especially now than at any former period ?—They want it, perhaps, much more.

485. *Chairman.*] Do the town councils take an active part in the administration of their libraries ?—It is quite in their power, subject to the general inspection, which belongs to the Minister of Public Instruction; excepting that, it is quite in their power.

486. Do the prefects of departments, or the local representatives of the Government, in any way interfere in the management of public libraries ?—Not more than they interfere in all municipal affairs; libraries are considered as a municipal institution, and the prefects have the same right of inspection, but not more especially for public libraries than for the other institutions of the town.

487. Do the officers of the libraries transmit periodical reports to the Minister of Public Instruction ?—They transmit annually a report to the common council on the condition and on the wants of the library; the librarian generally asks every year some sum for the purposes of the library, but I do not think there are very fixed periodical reports; the periodical reports are made by the inspectors who go to visit the libraries.

488. Are the provincial libraries, like those of Paris, usually lending libraries? —Usually they are, perhaps with some conditions more stringent than those which exist in the libraries of Paris. Perhaps some certificate is asked for, more exact than is done in Paris; but generally all the public libraries in France are lending libraries.

489. What are the general conditions on which books are lent out ?—The person is required to be a known person, to have a domicile in the town, and to be able, if the book is lost, to replace it. If the librarian does not himself know the man who asks for a book, if the man comes with the attestation of some known person, of some member of the Common Council, for example, the book is lent to him.

490. Would a foreigner, after residing a short time in one of those towns, be allowed the use of a book at his residence ?—I think the librarian would make no difference between a foreigner and a Frenchman.

491. It is not usual that such a distinction is made ?—It is not.

492. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Is the time fixed for the return of any book ?—I do not know that it is; perhaps in some specific libraries there may be some rule on that point, but generally I think there is no fixed time for the return of a book.

493. And parties would not be subject to any fine for not returning it within a specific time ?—Perhaps some special rule may exist in particular towns.

494. Mr. *Kershaw.*] Do the middle and lower orders of society avail themselves much of the libraries in Paris, and in the provinces of France ?—In Paris they do, and in some of the towns; but not so much as I should think it desirable that they should do. The facilities for using the libraries are much greater than the disposition to use them.

495. *Chairman.*] Do you think it desirable that the books of public libraries should be lent out ?—Yes.

496. Has the practice been attended with loss and disadvantage to the libraries in which it has prevailed ?—It is very difficult to answer that question. There has been loss, but the loss has been occasioned much more by specific defects in the mode of lending the books, than arises from the practice of lending. Some rules are necessary; some restriction must be attached to the privilege. There has been, in some libraries especially, I am obliged to say in the largest of all, in the National Library of Paris, great disorder. During the time I was in office as Minister of Public Instruction (four years), I took care every year that I should know, as exactly as possible, what loss was suffered in that library by the prac-

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tice of lending common books; that loss was no more than about 100 *l.* every year. During four years there were losses of books to this value, and they were books very easy to be replaced. The advantage to the public of lending books is much greater than the loss of 100 *l.* every year.

497. Mr. *Brotherton.*] It is customary to make a return of the state of the libraries periodically to the Government, is it?—Yes.

498. Mr. *Charteris.*] Can you give the Committee any idea of the per-centage of the loss upon the whole number of books lent?—No, I could not do that.

499. *Chairman.*] Do you think that persons seeking to borrow books should be called on to show their inability to consult them in the library itself?—I think not; I think it would be inconvenient.

500. Do you think the practice of lending should be restricted to such books as are possessed in duplicate by the respective libraries?—No; but it should be restricted to such books as can be easily replaced. Very rare and precious books should not be lent, except on special occasions to well-known persons who want them for important purposes; but every book which can be easily replaced, in my opinion, should be readily lent.

501. Viscount *Ebrington.*] Is it the practice to allow every one who comes to the library, to use in the library any books, such as books of prints, or illustrated books, however precious?—Yes, with some precautions. For reading a book in the library, the greatest facility exists, even with respect to precious books.

502. You are not aware that prints have been seriously damaged, or that many of them have been stolen?—Sometimes they have been damaged. I am bound to say that there are some inconveniences attached to so great an advantage, but not equal to the good results by which it is attended.

503. *Chairman.*] Do you think the duplicate books of a public library would be more usefully disposed of by way of interchange with other libraries, than by their appropriation as a lending collection?—A general answer to such a question is very difficult. There are some books, and many books of which it is quite necessary for a large library to have two, three, or four copies. When a great many persons come to read, or to consult such books, it is very necessary to have many copies of the same book. For example, in the National Library there were sometimes five, six, or many more, copies of the same work. That, I think, is too many. It is quite useless to have so many. It is a good practice in such cases to interchange such books with other libraries. That has been practised in France between the libraries of Paris and provincial libraries. Many exchanges have been made in such a way, and usefully so, I think, for the libraries of the provinces as well as for those of Paris.

504. Mr. *Bunbury.*] When you speak of such a number of copies of a book, do you mean copies of the same edition of a work, or do you include different editions between which there is no essential difference?—Very often editions are almost the same, without any important difference; when an edition of a book is printed, a copy is sent to the National Library; there were formerly five copies sent to different libraries, now there are only three; one is always sent to the National Library. There are many books which are printed again and again without any alteration in the text, so that there were to be found in the National Library a great many editions of the same book without any important variations.

505. Was a copy of every edition of every work published required to be sent to the National Library?—Yes; every edition of the same book.

506. Mr. *Mackinnon.*] That is one of the causes of there being so many copies of the same work?—Yes.

507. *Chairman.*] Do you think the duplicate books of such a library ought, under any circumstances, to be sold or bartered to booksellers or private persons?—It is a question of local administration. I think no general answer can be given to such a question; there is no general rule for it.

508. Have you reason to think that any serious losses have resulted to public libraries in France from such a practice?—Yes; I have answered that question before, that there have been very serious losses, but much more arising from a disorderly and bad administration than from the practice of lending the books. I am quite sure that rules can be attached to the practice of lending books, which may remove the greater part of the inconveniences and losses.

509. May such losses be partly ascribed to the want of accurate catalogues of the contents of the libraries in which they have occurred?—Yes, that is one of the chief causes of them.

510. Do you think it desirable that in great libraries, such as those of Paris, the reading-room should be accessible in the evenings?—Yes. It is very difficult to arrange that it should be so in such a library as the National Library, but in libraries which have some special destination, as that of Ste. Génévieve, which is specially designed for the students of law, it is quite indispensable that they should be open in the evening; the students during the day are attending lectures, and in the evening they come for the purpose of reading books. In Paris I do not know of any other library than that of Ste. Génévieve and the library of the Institute, which is open in the evening.

511. Do you know whether they are open in any of the large commercial and manufacturing towns for the benefit of the working classes?—I think it is so in Rouen and Amiens; in those two towns, if I am not mistaken, the public libraries are open in the evening, and a great many workmen come to read.

512. I need not ask you if the result produced is a good one?—It is a very good one, I think.

513. Are you acquainted with any injurious results from such a practice in any libraries which have been so open?—I am not; I do not recollect any real inconvenience arising from it.

514. Do you approve of the practice of admitting all persons without any restriction to a great library like the chief library of Paris, or do you think it would be better to require some introduction or recommendation?—Upon coming into a library and reading books, I think no restriction should be put.

515. Are the libraries of the French universities and colleges, or any of them, accessible to the public at large?—Not to the public at large; with special permissions persons are allowed to come to them and read, but generally the use of those libraries is restricted to members of the corporation, and members of the college or university.

516. Do you think it in any respect objectionable that collegiate libraries should be open to the public under proper regulations?—I think not, under proper regulations, and I think proper regulations can be made for the purpose.

517. Are you aware of the present extent of the library attached to the Historical Museum of Versailles?—No, I cannot answer that question. I have no special information which I can give to the Committee about it.

518. Does any system of village libraries or communal libraries for the benefit of the rural population exist?—There are but very small beginnings of the practice; by the special goodwill of some landlord or some neighbour to the village, small libraries may have been formed in that way in certain villages, but they are very rare and very imperfect. I did begin it for the village near my country seat. Some of my friends have done the same. That is only however a class of libraries originating in the goodwill of a proprietor near to the village.

519. Do you think the formation of such libraries advantageous to the rural population?—It is; but it is very difficult to find books which are adapted to that sort of people. In Normandy the small proprietors around me are very excellent persons, of very good morals, and very sensible people; they have often asked me, "Can we have books to read?" In the winter evenings especially they do not know what to do with their time; they want books, and they ask for books; but it is very difficult to know what books are good for them. I have for my own use a good library, and I have lent some of my books in the country to my neighbours who came to ask for them. I have lost some books by that practice; but very few. They choose themselves such books as they are pleased with, and generally they take such books as "Le Dictionnaire des Sciences Naturelles," and "Le Dictionnaire des Sciences Medicales," some French history, and such books as the Cyclopædias.

520. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Are the Committee to understand that such books are taken out by persons not above the class of small proprietors, little farmers?—Yes, farmers; those persons whom I speak of are, generally speaking, farmers, but they have of their own a revenue from land yearly of 50 *l.*, or 60 *l.*, or 100 *l.* We have a great many such small proprietors in Normandy. They are a very good class; one of the best in the province for morality, as well as for good sense.

521. You find that they prefer that class of books to works which we should have thought of a more interesting kind, books of fiction and romances?—I have in my library the novels of Sir Walter Scott and others, but I do not remember that such a book has ever been asked for by those persons. Le Dictionnaire des Sciences Naturelles, Buffon's Histoire Naturelle, L'Encyclopædie, French history, and travels; but as to novels, historical or others, they are very rarely taken.

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522. *Chairman.*] Are there not in modern times many cheap and useful publications, which would very much improve our rural population, far more attainable than they were formerly?—Yes; but you are far more advanced in England as to that than we are in France. You have in England a great many works which are very cheap, and very excellent for the use of the rural population. We have very few such publications in France.

523. Are not there many such publications in France connected with natural history, and subjects of that kind?—No. During the last 20 years almanacks have been much better composed, and they are much better books generally. That is the principal kind of book which is circulated.

524. You have no duty upon almanacks in France?—No.

525. Have you any such establishments as itinerating libraries in France?—We have not.

526. Do you approve of the practice of exacting gratuitous copies of all books published in a country, from their authors or publishers, for the public libraries of the chief cities?—Yes; it is a very small tax upon the publisher, and the utility of it is much more important than the amount of the tax.

527. Do you think that that should be exacted for every edition of a book?—That is the general practice in France. No person complains very bitterly of it.

528. The practice then has not been made a matter of complaint on the part of French authors or publishers?—No, there has not been any serious complaint.

529. *Lord Advocate.*] Does the rule include works of great value?—Yes.

530. Very expensive works; engravings, for instance?—Yes. It is very rarely the case that of such expensive works several editions are issued.

531. Supposing a work has cost an author 100 *l.*, should you still enforce the rule?—I think one of the dearest works which has been printed in France is the work of Le Comte de Bastard, Peintures Manuscrites du Moyen Age, and yet, if I remember well, copies of that work have been given for the public libraries. As far as I recollect, no exception has been made in the case of that work. I think the same rule has been applied to that work as to others.

532. Have not the government subscribed to that work?—Yes. I do not recollect the exact number of copies, but, as Minister of Public Instruction, I subscribed to that work as much as 15,000 *l.*, to be paid in eight or ten years.

533. Did the government give any subscription to Sommerard's work?—I think so; perhaps the amount of 10 or 12 or 20 copies.

534. That is a work of great expense, is it not?—Yes.

535. Is it usual for the government to give subscriptions to facilitate the publication of works of that great cost?—Yes, that is the constant practice. When a work is a scientific work, and is a very expensive publication, before beginning the publication, or taking any step as to it, the bookseller or the author goes to the government and asks of them, "Will you subscribe for some copies, and for how many copies?" If government answers, "We will not subscribe; we have no money for the purpose," the publication is postponed.

536. The subscription by the government to the publication of works of such great cost of course makes the pressure less against the publisher, of having to furnish to the government three copies?—Yes.

537. The tax is nothing, in short, upon a book of small value; it only becomes heavy in the case of expensive books?—Yes; and then the government pays the tax by its subscription.

538. *Chairman.*] I suppose a copy is exacted of the smallest work.—It is.

539. A pamphlet, for instance?—Of every printed work, whatever it may be.

540. What is the machinery by which you ascertain that the required copy has been given in?—If a book should be published without three copies having been sent to the office which is appointed for the purpose, there would be a fine on the bookseller.

541. The public prosecutor would prosecute the bookseller?—Yes, and he would be fined.

542. Do you think it would be preferable that such copies should be paid for, the legal right to exact the delivery of all books published being retained?—I think not.

543. Can you favour the Committee with any suggestions as to the means of facilitating interchanges of books between the public libraries of different countries?—I had some conversations on that matter with M. Alexandre Vattemare, who travelled in the United States. He was the great undertaker of the

interchanges between the different libraries; nothing very practical or of a great extent occurred; I tried several different ways, but I never came to any important and general result.

544. Not even with the United States?—No.

545. Have you ever felt the want, or have you ever heard that foreigners have felt the want of public libraries in London, and in the large towns of this country, as numerous and as accessible as those which exist upon the Continent?—I am bound to say I found it myself, and if the London Library had not existed in London, I should have felt great inconvenience.

546. That is a subscription library?—Yes, a very useful one; there are a great many excellent books about English history, which I have found in the London Library. In the British Museum I should have met with the best accommodation, but yet it is a great inconvenience for me to be obliged to go to the British Museum and not to be able to work in my own room, with my own books; that is a great part of the pleasure of working.

547. *Lord Advocate.*] It is in respect of books not being lent out that you have found inconvenience?—Yes, in respect of books not being lent out; that is the great inconvenience.

548. *Chairman.*] Would you not also state that it must be a serious disadvantage to a foreigner in this country to find himself in a large provincial town in England, or in London, without the enjoyment of the public libraries which he would enjoy in many countries abroad?—Yes, he would feel it a great inconvenience.

549. Sir *H. Verney.*] You believe the London Library is the only public library at which you can obtain books at your own house?—That is so.

550. And that is not a public library?—It is not a public library.

551. *Lord Advocate.*] What was the nature of the inconvenience which you found with respect to the British Museum; was it that the accommodation furnished was not satisfactory, or that you could not obtain books to take home?—The last is the real inconvenience; the accommodation at the British Museum is excellent.

552. *Chairman.*] At the British Museum a man cannot enter unquestioned, as he could in your libraries abroad, and ask for a book; he must have a previous introduction of some kind or other?—Yes.

553. Therefore in that respect the facilities are far greater abroad than they are in London?—They are.

554. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Have you heard of any complaints being made of inconvenience resulting to persons who go to the Bibliothèque Nationale to consult books there, in consequence of the number of books which are lent out, and that therefore the books which they wanted were not in the library?—That is sometimes an inconvenience. That inconvenience has occasionally resulted from the practice of lending books, and yet I must say that those to whom the books are lent are usually much more important persons for literary purposes than those who go into the library to read the books.

555. Sir *H. Verney.*] With respect to the want of catalogues in public libraries generally, can you give any information to the Committee?—I do not know how it is in the British Museum, but in all our libraries, especially in the great National Library, the catalogue is a very imperfect one.

556. Would it not be very desirable to have a good catalogue?—It would be very desirable to have a good catalogue; it is, however, a matter of great expense, and a matter which must occupy a great deal of time. We have in that library especially a great many large collections of manuscripts and of pamphlets. The catalogue is very difficult to form, and must be very long; as it stands now it is very imperfect, and great inconvenience results from that circumstance.

557. Do you think the convenience arising from a complete catalogue more than countervails the time and expense required to form it?—Yes; if the catalogue was once completely done it would not be very difficult to maintain it in good condition. It is a great expense, but it would exist for all time when it was once done.

558. Is there no library in Paris which possesses a good catalogue?—I think the library of the Institute, which is a very large one, and possesses now about 120,000 volumes; there is a good catalogue there.

559. Will you give the Committee a little more information with respect to those

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those of your neighbours in Normandy, who are accustomed to ask for some of your books?—Those neighbours are generally not country gentlemen, but farmers, small landed proprietors whose revenue, beyond their farm, is, as I said before, generally 50*l.*, or 60*l.*, or 70*l.* a year, of their own; they are not at all learned persons, and yet having leisure enough, especially during the winter, to read, they want books for the purpose, and having none themselves they come sometimes to me.

560. From what distance round did persons come for your books?—From a distance from my house of between 2 and 10 miles.

561. How many volumes in the course of a year do you think you lent out?—I cannot remember exactly, but not a very great many; perhaps in the year from 50 to 100 volumes would go round.

562. The books taken, you say, were generally books of history or science?—Yes.

563. Mr. *Mackinnon.*] But very few novels?—Very few; they do not know of the existence of such novels, and they do not wish for them; the newspapers are their novels; they read the newspapers, and those are their novels, and they do not want any more.

564. Mr. *Charteris.*] A great many novels appear in newspapers, do not they?—Yes, and not the best.

565. Did any of the labourers who are employed by those proprietors apply to you for books?—Very rarely.

566. In that case have you lent them books?—Yes, to some of them whom I knew personally, who were very honest labourers.

567. Mr. *Mackinnon.*] Would you say that the education of those classes of the people to whom you have alluded is superior to that of the same class in England?—I cannot make a comparison; I have seen in the country that your farmers are generally superior to our farmers, and your labourers are inferior to our labourers.

568. You have that intermediate class between your farmers and labourers?—Yes, we have an intermediate class between our farmers and our labourers.

569. *Chairman.*] Would you recommend that catalogues should be made of the provincial libraries?—Yes; they are very imperfect now.

570. You think it is desirable that a person consulting a library in Paris should be able to find there catalogues of other libraries in France, so that he might know where to look for the books he wants?—Yes, that work has been undertaken. You would find in the library of the Office of Public Instruction in Paris a great many catalogues of provincial libraries, but yet that collection is not at all complete, and those local catalogues are very imperfect indeed.

571. Are you aware whether much progress has been made with the Catalogue General des Manuscrits?—I cannot answer that question satisfactorily.

572. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Is not it the case that there are some extensive libraries in France, in the small towns of France, containing some very curious books?—Yes; by special gift.

573. *Chairman.*] Does not it appear to you particularly important that in all those cases where there is a valuable local library, at a place where a person would not naturally look for it, a catalogue of that library should exist, so that a person may know of its existence?—Yes.

574. Do you approve of the regulations established by M. de Salvandy, when Minister of Public Instruction, for the purpose of increasing the responsibility of librarians and other administrators of libraries to that minister?—I am much more disposed to enforce facilities than restrictions. I like much better that books should be used freely, although occasionally loss and inconvenience may take place.

575. You think an occasional loss of books is a very reasonable tax to pay for the general use of those books?—Yes.

576. *Lord Advocate.*] You would confine the lending of books to those which are capable of being easily replaced?—Yes; when it is only a matter of money the loss is never very great; by no means equal to the good which is conferred.

577. Mr. *Charteris.*] You can hardly even look upon books which are abstracted from libraries as being entirely lost, can you?—Morally they are not quite lost. There have been great and deplorable disorders in some of the libraries; books have been lost or have been damaged to a deplorable extent, but it was bad administration which was the cause of it.

Veneris, 27° *die Aprilis*, 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Kershaw.
Mr. Bunbury.
Mr. Milnes.
Mr. Charteris.
Mr. Mackinnon.
Mr. Thicknesse.
Mr. Hamilton.
Sir John Walsh.
Mr. Ewart.

WILLIAM EWART, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

His Excellency M. *Van de Weyer*, Minister of His Majesty the King of the Belgians; Examined.

His Excellency M. *Van de Weyer*.

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578. *Chairman.*] WILL you have the goodness to inform the Committee whether many public libraries, freely accessible to the people, exist in Belgium?—There are about 13 or 14 old public libraries in Belgium which have been established a long time since; they are all accessible to the public. Antwerp, Brussels, Bruges, Ghent, Louvain, Liége; those are the principal: but there are 14 public libraries altogether.

579. When you say that they are accessible to the public, do you mean that any person may go into them?—Any person, without any letter of introduction or authorization.

580. And be supplied with a book on asking for it?—And be supplied with a book if he asks for it.

581. Have you ever felt the want, or have you ever heard that foreigners have felt the want, of public libraries so accessible in London and in the large towns of this country?—I should make a distinction between London and the large towns of England. Every foreigner who comes to London with a letter of introduction finds every facility, not only of access to public libraries, such as the British Museum, but to the clubs, which is also of great advantage to him; so that foreigners who come to London very seldom complain of that difficulty, which indeed they do not meet with. But if they should travel in the provinces they would find a little difference between the state of things there and the state of things abroad in that respect.

582. Is not there this difference, even in the case of London, that an Englishman going to Belgium, for instance, or to France, or to Italy, might freely walk into any library, and, without any recommendation or introduction, such as you have alluded to, would have access to the books?—No foreigner could do so here without a letter of recommendation, and he never comes to this country, knowing the state of things, without having such letter. Any foreigner abroad would be immediately received in the libraries as any native.

583. Do you attribute good results to the literary character of your country from this power of free access to the public libraries?—Undoubtedly; because it follows that good results will proceed from good tools being put in the hands of the people who want to make use of them; the better the tools the better the character of the work. We have experienced that the public libraries, having been put under the care of literary men, have increased in number of good books, and those good books have been instrumental in giving a much higher character to the publications.

584. Do you think it desirable that the best and highest style of books should form the basis of a library, though frequented only principally by the working classes?—I should positively say, on principle, that the first-rate books ought to be put in the hands of the people, instead of the inferior publications prepared for them. They generally object to books being manufactured for them, and they enjoy and feel the beauties of the higher class of literature, I should say, as deeply as any literary men. The same can be witnessed in theatrical representations, when the people are admitted gratis; if a farce is given to them they hiss it; if the best plays of Corneille or Racine are represented before them they applaud, and applaud those very passages which a literary man most admires.

585. The same may be said of the plays of Shakspere in England, we presume?—I have no doubt of it.

586. Have any steps been taken of late years to increase the number of public libraries in Belgium, or to extend the accessibility of such as exist at present?—The accessibility of those that exist was already great enough not to require any extension. But steps have been taken, both by the government, and by municipal councils, to increase the number of public libraries. Several towns have applied to the government, such as Arlon, Ath, Oudenarde, Malines, and Ypres, to receive from the government the publications which are either printed by authority, or subscribed for by the government. Since then they have established public libraries of themselves, the government sending all their publications to them.

587. Can you inform the Committee how many libraries receive pecuniary aid by annual votes of the Chambers, and what is the aggregate number of such votes?—Literally speaking, there is but one great royal public library, which is the library of Brussels; that receives an annual grant of 2,500 *l.* or 2,800 *l.*; but the library of the two universities, Ghent and Liége, though they have been ceded to the towns, are still under the direction of the government, and receive an indirect grant as part of the university.

588. Are the public libraries generally subject to the control or supervision of the Minister of Public Instruction, or is such control limited to the libraries which receive grants of public money?—The Minister of the Interior has the control of the royal library, and a report is annually made to him of improvements and purchases. Besides the librarian, there is a committee appointed by the Minister of the Interior, to superintend the proceedings of that royal establishment.

589. Have the municipal councils, in the provincial cities and towns, power to levy rates, or to make grants for the support of the public libraries in their respective localities?—They have no power of levying rates, but they grant upon the annual budget of the town a certain sum for the expenses of their public libraries; salaries of librarians, and purchases of books; that budget is annually examined by the provincial council, the governor, and the Minister of the Interior, so that there is a general control over the whole.

590. Do those town councils take an active part in the administration of such libraries?—Generally the members of the municipal council become the members of the committee to superintend the proceedings of the librarian.

591. That committee, then, is under the government?—No, in the municipal towns they have the control of their own libraries, but, besides the librarian, there is generally a committee of three or five persons appointed to superintend the proceedings, and to assent to the purchases which are proposed by the librarian.

592. Appointed by whom?—By the municipal council, and they delegate one or two of their members to form a part of that committee.

593. Then what is the connexion between the government and the library?—The municipal libraries are totally under the control of the municipal authorities.

594. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Do they appoint the librarian?—They appoint the librarian and fix the salary.

595. The salaries, it is presumed, are very different in different places?—The salaries vary according to the means of the municipality; sometimes the salary is very low, from 60 *l.* to 80 *l.*

596. Mr. *Charteris.*] But in that case the library is very small?—No, I have known libraries of 50,000 or 60,000 volumes, which were superintended by a librarian, who had but 2,000 francs a year.

597. *Chairman.*] Do the prefects of departments interfere at all in the management of the public libraries in Belgium?—The governors of the provinces have a general superintendence over the interests of the community, but they do not exercise a personal supervision or direction of the libraries; a report is made to them.

598. Do the committees or the officers of the libraries transmit periodical reports to the governors of the provinces, or to the Minister of Public Instruction? There is an annual report of the improvements made in the library, of the number of books purchased, the number of readers that have attended, and the number of books that have been lent; and generally, at the end of each year, there is a supplement to the catalogue printed of all the new purchases, which is done at a very small expense.

599. Are those reports laid before the Chamber?—They are not laid before the Chamber.

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600. They merely come up to the Minister of Public Instruction?—They are printed and published, and at Brussels the librarian publishes annually a volume under the title of "Annuaire de la Bibliothèque," which gives all those important details to the public.

601. Is he considered the authorized librarian of Belgium, or does he do it spontaneously?—He does it spontaneously.

602. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Are the Committee to understand that he publishes an account of his own library, or of all the libraries?—Of the library at Brussels.

603. *Chairman.*] You were understood to say an *annuaire*?—Yes, of his own, not of others.

604. Is there an *annuaire* also published of others?—There is no *annuaire* published of the others; but in the annual report of the state of each province, which is made to the provincial council, and sent by the governor to the government, there is a general *résumé* of what has been done in favour of science, letters, arts, libraries, and so on.

605. Are the libraries in Belgium usually lending libraries; can the books be lent out to the readers?—All the public libraries are lending libraries.

606. On what conditions, or subject to what restrictions, are the books lent out?—In the Royal Library at Brussels they do not lend rare books; books of the 15th century, for instance, and books with valuable prints. There is generally an objection to lending those books.

607. Is any preliminary recommendation, or any personal knowledge of the character of the applicant, demanded before he is allowed to have books out of the library?—A person who applies for a book must be known, and being answerable for the book, must be of such respectability that the book can be entrusted to him. Lending a book in a library, like the Royal Library at Brussels or the British Museum here, ought to be considered, not as the rule, but as the exception.

608. And it is so generally considered on the Continent, is it not?—It is so generally considered in the Royal Library of Brussels.

609. Has the practice of lending books out been attended with loss and disadvantage to the library in which it has been allowed?—The loss is not very great; there has been some loss. It is impossible to adopt the system of lending books without being exposed to negligence, particularly of literary men to whom they are entrusted.

610. Mr. *Charteris.*] You apprehend that it is the literary men who are most to be blamed in that respect?—It is a curious fact that one has the greatest difficulty to get the books back from them; whether it is that they forget them, being absorbed in their studies, but numerous applications must be made to them in order to have the books back; they are not lost, but merely retained beyond the time allowed.

611. Are you aware whether complaints are made of literary men marking and writing notes in the margins of the books; that is one evil which we have heard complained of in lending libraries?—No. I have heard no complaint of that kind. I presume that when they ask for those books it is to make use of them for their own compositions, in which their notes are given to the public; they do not leave them on the margin of the borrowed book; but such is the precaution that is taken for preventing anything of that kind in public libraries, not in books that are lent, but in books that are read, that nobody is allowed to copy a book or a manuscript, using a pencil, a compass, or anything of that kind, without the librarian or somebody being present.

612. And the same with respect to tracings?—Just the same; no tracing is allowed without a special order.

613. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Do not you consider it a very great advantage and convenience to literary men to be able to take books out of the library and use them at home?—Very great indeed; so much so, that in one year in a town like Ghent the librarian has lent between 5,000 and 6,000 volumes to literary men and young men, and without any complaint being made by him of the loss of one of those works.

614. Mr. *Mackinnon.*] You did not find that the books were dirtied or damaged by that use of them?—They were not.

615. *Chairman.*] Even were the books to undergo a certain degree of damage, perhaps sometimes inseparable from the system of lending out, do you think that the evil is compensated by the more extensive good which the distribution of the books

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books does?—If lending books is confined to those books which can be easily replaced, I should say the inconvienence is very small.

616. Of course the question is put with the previous limitation which you gave, that the more valuable books were not lent out?—Yes. I must, however, remark, that there have been exceptions made to the rule; that most valuable books have been lent, even to foreigners; and even unique manuscripts. That liberality has been carried so far, that we have sent manuscripts to this country, unique copies, which have been entrusted by our Government to your Government, and by your Government entrusted to literary men.

617. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Has there been any reciprocity in that respect; have you borrowed manuscripts from us?—We have not; but I have no doubt, having set the example, that reciprocity would be given.

618. *Chairman.*] Is that a recent instance of liberality which you have mentioned?—Quite recent. I have recently received a manuscript from a literary man here, and have sent it back to Brussels, the manuscript having been in his possession for several months.

619. Mr. *Bunbury.*] In lending manuscripts, is any additional security, in the shape of a bond or the payment of money, taken?—None. A literary man, a foreigner, who applies in Brussels or in Ghent for a manuscript, or any other book, from the library, ought to have the recommendation of his own minister or the consul.

620. But even with regard to Belgic subjects, the lending of books out is a matter of confidence, and no security is taken in money?—It is a matter of confidence, and no security is taken in money.

621. Mr. *Mackinnon.*] In short, it is a question which must be left very much to the discretion of the librarian, and his knowledge of the parties?—Yes. There is one great advantage in our library arrangements, which is the publication of rules and regulations in the reading room; if anybody asks anything against the rules and regulations, the librarian points to the law; if he then requires a favour, he knows how he is to apply for it; if it is for a manuscript, he applies to the Minister of the Interior. The librarian has, I believe, in none of our libraries, the right to lend the manuscripts without the special authorization of the Minister of the Interior.

622. Putting aside the question of rare books, does not it strike your Excellency, that as the increase of education takes places, both in a moral and political point of view, it is a great point to supply that education with proper books?—Undoubtedly; we have found in our young men a great change in their habits, and a great progress in the developement of their minds, since the increase of our libraries, and since the facilities that have been given to put the proper tools in their hands; the character of the books which they apply for is of a much higher order than it was formerly.

623. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Do many of the lower classes avail themselves either of the privilege of borrowing books, or of reading in the library, that is to say, artificers, or the smaller description of tradesmen?—A library like the British Museum here, or the Royal Library at Brussels, is generally much more a library for the *élite* of the readers, than for the people you describe. They sometimes apply to the public libraries to have books concerning their own professions; and as there are, besides the public libraries, private associations for the distribution of books, and the lending of books, among the lower orders in Belgium, they do not feel so much the want of public libraries in that respect. There is an association at Brussels, and at Ghent, and Malines, and several other towns, of a number of gentlemen and ladies, who purchase books, that are to be lent to the people; I forget upon what condition, rather freely, I think, without any distinction, and they have lent as many as 20,000 or 25,000 volumes in a year.

624. *Chairman.*] Subject to no pecuniary contribution on the part of the people?—Exactly.

625. Has that system done much good, do you think, in Belgium?—I believe it has, because several other towns have followed the example of Brussels and the larger towns in that respect; they call those institutions parochial libraries.

626. Do they extend into the parishes in the country districts?—They are going to be extended into the country by the government. The government are now preparing a series of scientific little tracts, borrowed from the best publications of England and France; those are to be translated and printed at the

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expense of government, and distributed in all rural communities. They will be called "Bibliothèque Rurale."

627. You have no such libraries as itinerant libraries which travel about the country, such as have been founded in Scotland, for instance, and I believe in parts of Germany?—No. We have a sort of itinerant booksellers, who sell old tales, "Reynard the Fox," and so on, and almanacks; but they are not considered as libraries.

628. Is the circulation of almanacks very extensive and very much improved in Belgium?—Very much improved lately. One of the oldest and most renowned almanacks is Mathieu Laensbergh and the character of the almanacks is very much improved.

629. You are aware of the greatly increased circulation of almanacks in England; has the circulation equally extended in Belgium, do you think?—The last national almanack, which has been published by two or three young men, has had an immense circulation in Belgium. Returning to the number of our libraries, I have only as yet mentioned those libraries which are strictly public; but besides those there are a number of other small ones, like the library of the Chamber, the Military School, the Observatory, the Hospices, the Court of Cassation. All those establishments have libraries, and all those libraries, though not strictly public, might be accessible if anybody applied to consult the books.

630. Is there any law in Belgium which exacts from the author a copy of his publication?—The law obliges him to send three copies to the municipal council, which is a guarantee for his copyright.

631. Do you mean to the municipal council of every municipal town in Belgium, or only to Brussels?—To every municipal town, where it is published, and then it is sent by the provincial town to the government; it is to establish his copyright.

632. Then every author has abstracted from the circulation of his work three copies in Belgium?—Yes.

633. Has that been complained of at all in Belgium by authors or publishers?—Never. And I should think that a regulation of that kind might in every country be made very useful to the publishers and the authors themselves. The expense of a copy, or three copies, is after all very little, except in very expensive works. If the government who receives the three copies, appointed an officer to register the depôt of those copies, just as you register births and marriages, and had that register published every week, the author and the publisher would find in that way a publicity, an advantage, which would amply repay them for the expense of their copies.

634. Mr. *Charteris.*] Is that what is done?—I am sorry to say it is not done; but it might be done, and would be very useful in every country.

635. *Chairman.*] Is the author also required to send a copy of every new edition of his work, as well as of the first?—Every new edition.

636. Therefore if a book passes through 11 editions, you would have 11 copies of that work?—Yes.

637. In that case, you must have a manifold number of copies of the same work in Belgium?—In Belgium there are but a limited number of books that reach more than a third or fourth edition. It is a great success when a book reaches a fourth edition.

638. But there must be a number of duplicate copies of works in the public libraries?—There are duplicates, but it is a difficult thing to define what a real duplicate is.

639. Does not that give a great facility for lending books, and also for supplying the readers for common purposes?—It does, certainly.

640. Mr. *Charteris.*] In the case of the most expensive publications, is that right of the State to three copies enforced?—Without any distinction.

641. *Chairman.*] And down to the lowest publication of the commonest sort?—Yes.

642. Mr. *Charteris.*] M. Guizot said that in France the State subscribed for the most expensive works?—In Belgium there are very few publications for which the government does not subscribe for a number of copies, and it is by doing so that, on the one side, they encourage the progress of literature, and on the other, are enabled to send some copies to the libraries in the provinces, encouraging by so doing the establishment of public libraries.

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643. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Is it the Minister of Public Instruction that has to subscribe for the work?—It is the Minister of the Interior, generally, who subscribes.

644. Mr. *Charteris.*] What is the amount to which that subscription extends?—No detailed account is given of the subscription for works, as there is a grant of a budget of some 50,000 or 60,000 francs for the encouragement of arts and literature: it is out of that grant that the subscription is given.

645. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Does the rule of publishers depositing a copy of each edition, apply also to reprints of foreign works; of French works, for instance?—No; because in that case there is no copyright. I was going to state that the printers and editors of those books have been applied to by the librarians of Brussels and other towns, and have been asked to send a copy of the books which they printed or reprinted to the libraries, and, with very few exceptions, every one has answered the call; I know an editor who at once sent the whole of his publications during several years to be deposited in the library.

646. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Is there a censorship with regard to publications?—No.

647. Then, when the Minister of Instruction has it under consideration to subscribe for a particular publication or not, is he influenced by the supposed merit of the writer, or by any other consideration, to subscribe or not?—He has not the time, generally, to read these books himself, and he refers it usually to the administrator under him, who reads the manuscript, and makes a report on the nature of the book, as to whether the author deserves encouragement or not. No such grant is ever made without such a report being drawn up; and it is the character of utility and amount of talent displayed in the work which guides him in the use which is to be made of it, or the number of copies for which to subscribe.

648. *Chairman.*] Is there any duty on the importation of foreign books into Belgium?—There is a slight duty, I do not recollect the amount.

649. Is there any excise duty upon the manufacture of paper in Belgium?—None.

650. Is there any duty upon advertisements of books, or advertisements generally, in Belgium?—The only duty there is, is that every advertisement is to be written upon a stamped paper; but, however, there seems to be now a contradiction in that respect, for the stamp duty has been abolished upon newspapers, and has been left upon the advertisements in those papers.

651. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Then there is, in fact, a stamp duty levied, once for all, on sending the advertisement, and not upon the appearance of it in each particular newspaper, we apprehend?—It is on sending the advertisement; every advertisement is to be written upon a stamped paper. I believe it can be reprinted several times without a new stamp being made use of.

652. Of course when the stamp is on the advertisement the newspapers can multiply it as often as they please?—I presume so.

653. *Chairman.*] Is it an oppressive duty or a moderate duty?—Very moderate.

654. Have they paid particular attention to the formation of catalogues of the libraries in Belgium?—Very great attention; almost all our public libraries have catalogues, either totally printed or in printing; the libraries of Liége, Bruges, Ghent, part of Brussels, and Antwerp, have printed catalogues.

655. Do you consider that the possession of a good catalogue is of very great importance to the readers in the public libraries?—I should say, not only for the librarian, but for the readers; the catalogue is like the eye of a library.

656. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Do not you think that of the two it is more important for the readers and consulters of the library than for the librarian himself?—Undoubtedly so; because if the librarian is at all equal to his task he knows the books, as a shepherd knows his flock.

657. Some librarians seem inclined to underrate the value of catalogues?—Those who do so want to make themselves personally indispensable.

658. *Chairman.*] Do you think it of importance that there should be a sort of central catalogue of libraries; for instance, that a person in Brussels might be able, in the great national library there, to know the contents, by means of catalogues, of the provincial libraries throughout Belgium?—The provincial libraries having, almost all of them, had catalogues printed, you can ascertain by their contents the existence of any book almost all over Belgium.

659. But in Brussels is any catalogue kept of the contents of the public libraries

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in Belgium, so that a person there might acquaint himself with the existence of a book that he wished to consult in any of the provincial libraries as well as in Brussels?—He might do so with respect to all the libraries that have printed catalogues. I should add that there is also a correspondence established in Belgium between the librarians of every library and the librarians of almost every foreign country, which tends very much to the benefit of our own libraries, because it facilitates the interchange of books between them; that correspondence answers your object.

660. Do not you think that it would be generally desirable in all great countries to have, what might be called, a library of catalogues, or a department of catalogues; so that a person might know, not only as to the nation of which he was a component part, but also as to foreign countries, what books existed in the libraries of those countries?—The difficulty of making the catalogue of one library is already so great, that it would be almost impossible to make a catalogue of the catalogues of all the libraries.

661. But might you not have, for instance, in Brussels, the catalogues of Louvain and Liége and the different places in Belgium, and might you not also have a catalogue of the British Museum there, or of the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris?—All the catalogues of libraries that have printed catalogues are sent to those libraries.

662. Mr. *Charteris.*] The expense of the formation of a catalogue is considerable, is it not?—I should say not.

663. But whatever the expense may be, do you not consider that the advantage to the public would more than compensate it?—I cannot conceive a useful library without a catalogue; and if it is well managed, though the publication of the catalogue may be attended with expense, I do not conceive that the formation of the catalogue would be expensive.

664. *Chairman.*] Are any of the libraries in Belgium open for the benefit of the readers in the evening?—In some of the provincial towns.

665. Are those in the manufacturing towns principally?—I am not quite sure, but I have a faint recollection that there are two or three libraries open in the evening. Generally the librarians object to the libraries being open in the evening.

666. Do you think it an advantage for persons who are occupied by laborious duties in the day to have access to libraries in the evening?—It would be very useful to them, but a distinction is to be made between a great royal library, which is a depôt where all the intellectual and literary riches of the country are to be protected from all accident, and a secondary library, which might be accessible to the public in the evening, without those great riches being exposed to imminent danger of fire.

667. But do you think that the lesser public libraries, such as you have alluded to, containing, not works of extraordinary, but of ordinary value, might be open in the evening with great benefit in the large manufacturing towns either of Belgium or of England, or elsewhere?—It would be a great advantage to them if they were opened, and as they have fire and lights in the reading room, I do not see why they could not have the same advantages in the evening. I should always except those depôts of the intellectual riches of a country, however.

668. Is not the practice of using gas as a means of illumination a safeguard against the danger of fire to libraries, which did not exist in former times when they were obliged to carry the lights about?—Gas is generally considered in public establishments as more dangerous than any other way of lighting, I believe; it is so abroad. There may be a prejudice against it, but it requires such care and such nice attendance that people are afraid of gas; and then gas ought on no account to be admitted into a library; it is completely destructive of books; it acts upon the binding of the books.

669. But the gas being properly carried off and properly managed, seeing that we use it in our private houses in England, and that we use it in private libraries in England, perhaps you will qualify your answer by saying, at present?—At present; we must always leave the future open to improvement.

670. Are the libraries of the Belgic universities and colleges, or any of them, accessible to the public at large?—The two great libraries of Liége and Ghent, which are university libraries, have been ceded by the government to the towns and the universities, but always under the condition that they should belong to the towns and remain public.

671. Then

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671. Then can a native of the town, an inhabitant or person belonging to the town, freely go into those university libraries?—They are admitted as freely as into any other establishments, though there might perhaps be a difference as to lending the books. According to the regulations, the professors have a right to have books in their own houses in order to prepare their lectures.

672. Mr. *Charteris.*] That is not extended to the students, it is presumed?—It is extended to the students who prepare literary compositions, and who get recommended to the librarian through one of their professors.

673. *Chairmam.*] Of course all the students have access to the university libraries?—The students have free access to the university libraries; everybody has access; but there is a sort of discretionary power left in the librarian to know whether he is to give or to refuse an objectionable book to a young man; or if a young man of 14 or 15 years of age, being at one of the colleges, applied for a translation of one of the classics in order to shorten his own labours, the librarian would feel authorized to refuse him.

674. Mr. *Bunbury.*] We understand those are libraries which were public libraries and have been ceded to the universities, and not university libraries ceded to the public?—All the libraries of Belgium have been, since the French Republic, municipal libraries; they have become so; those of Liege and Ghent were ceded to the universities, but with this restriction, that they should always remain the property of the town, should the universities, by some chance or other, be removed to other places; the consequence of which has been that the government have sometimes, within a space of 20 years, spent some 10,000 *l.* or 12,000 *l.* in favour of those libraries. I take this opportunity of stating also that though the Chamber only votes a grant of 65,000 or 70,000 francs for the Royal Public Library of Brussels, whenever there is some large sale going on there is always a special grant made to the library. Lately one of the most curious private libraries had been advertised for sale; a catalogue had been printed in six volumes; the government immediately came forward, bought the whole of the library for 13,000 *l.* or 14,000 *l.* and made it an addition to the Royal Library in Brussels; they did the same thing at Ghent; I believe that the library that they bought at Ghent consisted of about 20,000 volumes, and in Brussels about 60,000 or 70,000 volumes.

675. It would be the inevitable effect of buying a large library like that at once that you would have an immense number of duplicates; is there any way in which those duplicates have been disposed of?—Several libraries in Belgium have disposed of their duplicates by public sales.

676. They have the power of doing that?—They have the power of doing it after being authorized by the government, or by the municipal council, if it is a municipal library; but one precaution is always taken, viz., that a catalogue of the duplicates is printed long beforehand, and circulated among the public, and if it were found that the librarian, by some mistake of his, had put as a duplicate a book that was not a duplicate, or that an inferior copy had been left in the library, and the best copy placed to be sold, somebody would immediately be found to interfere and put a stop to the sale. That has been the case at Brussels; a catalogue of duplicates had been printed and circulated, the day of sale advertised, and the sale was stopped by the municipal council in consequence of some literary men having found out that books were to be sold as duplicates that did not exist in duplicate in the library, or that inferior copies were left in it.

677. *Chairman.*] Are there not libraries in Belgium belonging strictly to the universities themselves?—There is the Catholic University of Louvain which has a library; a cession has been made of the library to the university; then the University of Brussels has also a library of its own.

678. Do not the universities allow the access of the public to their libraries?—They do, under certain regulations.

679. Are those regulations onerous?—No; the principle is to give to the readers and to the public as great facility as possible.

680. Have your libraries in Belgium been much increased by donations?—Considerably.

681. Do you find that individuals take such an interest in public libraries, where they may possibly have been themselves readers, that there is a very great inclination to bestow donations on public libraries when they have once been established?—That inclination has very much increased since the precaution has been taken of having the names of such gentlemen donators publicly printed in

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a list in the reading room, or entered in a beautiful book on vellum, their names being recorded, and every encouragement to such donations being given.

682. Making a sort of literary monument to the individual?—Yes; not only do the inhabitants of the country send their donations, but governments, and foreign gentlemen who have had access to the library, and who want to show their proper feeling for such attention, generally do so by sending a work to the library.

683. Sir *J. Walsh.*] The Committee understand from you that every facility is given to the public at large to have the use of public libraries, without any restriction as to classes, or any other limitation but that which may be necessary for the preservation of the books?—Yes.

684. From your observation, is that facility embraced very generally by all classes, or is it principally the class of literary men by profession and students who avail themselves of it?—I should say that those who avail themselves most of the libraries are the literary men, and the young men who wish to become so.

685. For books of study?—Yes.

686. For example, in manufacturing towns such as Louvain, or any other, it would be the class of students and literary men by profession, rather than the mass of the population who would avail themselves of it?—Exactly so, except at Ghent; there the manufacturers very often consult scientific books, and books upon their own profession. The difficulty is always to prevent the reading room of a library becoming a sort of club, which it ought not to be; the librarian, or the government, or the municipal council, must give every facility to those who want to acquire information, or to improve themselves; but the reading room ought not to be a sort of saloon, where people come and spend five or six hours at leisure with the first book they call for, a novel, and so on. I do not think that that is the object for which public libraries ought to be open.

687. *Chairman.*] Does any system of village libraries, or communal libraries exist in Belgium; or does any such system exist in the rural districts?—The government has ordered the publication of translations of scientific tracts to be distributed amongst the rural population.

688. Does the government appoint the place of deposit for those works?—They have not yet adopted the regulation according to which that distribution is to take place; it is a project just conceived, and only beginning.

689. But there is not now existing any building devoted to the purposes of a public library in the parishes or the communes of Belgium?—None as yet.

690. Do not you think that it would be a very desirable appendage to schools in the different communes?—There have been several applications from colleges, or *écoles secondaires*, to have such libraries appended to them.

691. Mr. *Charteris.*] Do you think it probable that the schools will become the places where those books will eventually be deposited in the rural districts?—Yes; I think the government for the moment will only distribute the tracts without having any settled library; it will come to that in the end.

692. *Chairman.*] There is not only no system of village libraries, but no depository for books, existing at present?—No; but everybody now, I believe, must feel the necessity of composing a library in a totally different manner from what it has been before. Formerly a library was composed of old theological books, books of controversy. I believe that now much more attention is to be paid, and will be paid, to scientific libraries, and to what we call industrial libraries.

693. Mr. *Charteris.*] If we rightly apprehend what you stated with regard to this project of scattering tracts over the commune districts, it merely at present extends to a gratuitous circulation of tracts and cheap publications?—Yes, at this moment.

694. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Is the desire for useful literature increasing amongst the rural population generally?—I believe it is.

695. *Chairman.*] Is it not very desirable that for the long evenings of winter the rural population should have some resources better than those that they are too much inclined to, those of a dissipated character?—It is to supersede the worthless books which are circulated that the government has undertaken this project, and there are some private associations which have done the same thing for Flanders.

696. Do the landed proprietors in different parts of Belgium take an interest in the formation of large village libraries for the lower class of the population?—I believe

—I believe it is in consequence of their application to the government that this plan has been conceived and carried into execution.

697. Have the proprietors individually established any such libraries?—I believe there are three or four examples.

698. And with a good result?—A very good result, and the best books being always applied for.

699. Can you favour the Committee with any information respecting the origin and extent of the interchanges of books between the Belgic government and the governments of any foreign countries?—The Belgic government has sent its own publications to the several public libraries of Europe. The librarian of Brussels has established what is called a *cartel d'échange*, a sort of conventional interchange of books, between almost all the libraries of Europe, and between all the scientific bodies, academies, and universities; those exchanges regularly take place every year. Then there has been also an exchange of public documents between the House of Commons in England and our Chamber in Belgium.

700. Have you had any interchange of books with the United States?—Not that I am aware of.

701. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Do the authorities of the libraries purchase books with the view of making exchanges with foreign countries, or is it only with duplicates of their own that the exchange takes place?—The exchange to this moment has, I believe, been applied to the publications of the scientific bodies in Belgium, the Royal Academy, our old Chronicles, and generally the publications of the government, but not yet, I believe, to the duplicates of the library, for which a special authorization of the government would be required.

702. *Chairman.*] Do you think it would be practicable and desirable to extend those national interchanges, and to organize them in some definite and permanent manner?—I think the best results must be expected from those interchanges, particularly as they apply to those sorts of books which are seldom publicly sold.

703. Mr. *Bunbury.*] With regard to funds for the libraries in the municipal towns, we understand you that almost all of them are provided out of the municipal sources, and that not as a separate rate, but as part of the general municipal fund. The Committee wish to know whether that is a sort of budget that is annually settled; so that in fact they can make it larger if they want money for the library, or whether they must be content with the surplus they have got?—They can increase it.

704. Then they can, in fact, levy a rate for the library, though not directly in that way?—Indirectly they can. In my opinion no municipal library ought to be established without first the concurrence of the inhabitants. If I were to give advice for the formation of libraries in provincial towns, I should say that the inhabitants ought to come forward first; that they ought to subscribe between themselves, and after having, by private subscription, raised a sufficient fund to get a good collection of books, that they then should apply to their local authorities, and show the result of their association, that then the town ought to pay also its share in the establishment of such a library by giving them a locale; that being done, the inhabitants having shown what they could do by their own exertions, the town having shown its disposition to help and assist in the establishment of a public library, then, and only then, an application ought to be made to the Government to give to those libraries, either by a grant of Parliament, or by a certain sum of money to be distributed amongst all the provincial towns, the means of buying those large collections which are in no private libraries, and the want of which is much more felt in provincial towns than anywhere else. The gentlemen thus associated might have the privilege of having the books sent to their private houses, lent out; three or four days in the week that library ought to be opened to the public; and the public then, if by chance they did not find a book which they asked for in the library, would have no right to complain, as it would be the subscriber's right to have the book in his own house. You would have the advantage of a circulating library for the subscribers, and a public library gratis for the public at large, by the interference of the town in giving the locale, and of the Government assisting in providing the large collections which are not accessible generally to the means of municipal towns.

705. Mr. *Charteris.*] But you would only lend the books to the private subscribers?—I should only lend the books to the private subscribers, as an advantage which

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which they would have a right to, having been instrumental in establishing the library.

706. Then perhaps the public might also lay their claim to have books lent out, as, according to your proposition, the State would assist in forming the library?—They would always have the right to become subscribers, and to have all the privileges of such subscribers. But in the formation of those provincial libraries, I think that a great distinction ought to be made, according to the wants of different localities. One of the great errors committed everywhere, as far as my own experience goes, is that no sufficient importance has been attached to the locality in which the library is to be situated; there are books of universal interest that no library can be without, but at the same time, in order to make a library perfectly useful the wants of the population ought to be consulted. You could not establish a library of the same nature at Manchester as at Oxford; provincial libraries ought to be so collected, that all the natural and industrial and manufacturing interests should be consulted; and that any man, in applying to that library, could find the materials for improving the natural riches which he has before his eyes. I should say that the same rule would apply to a historical library in a provincial town. The success of a library very much depends on the nature of the collection; and there is a great moral advantage in collecting everything that is connected with the town or province, its history, its biography, books relative to its manufacturing and agricultural interest. All that has been too much neglected—I do not say here, because I am not aware how that is, but abroad,—and I believe that now attention has been drawn, or will be drawn, to the subject, and that the wants of the public will be consulted.

707. *Chairman.*] Is it not very desirable that provincial libraries should be topographical libraries?—Topographical in the most general sense, its natural riches, its manufacturing interests, &c.

708. Its past history?—Just so; its past history, its present resources, and so on.

709. Its ancient monuments, its remains of antiquity, and everything of that sort which is topographical?—Exactly.

710. Mr. *Hamilton.*] You stated that you attached considerable moral importance to that; is the tendency of that kind of works to create a topographical feeling?—I believe that the population is more attached to its own town, to its historical souvenirs, and that there is a stronger local patriotism when there is a library, where the past can be studied and where the future can be prepared.

711. *Chairman.*] You would call out the *genius loci* as it were?—I should say that those means of acting upon the moral and political feeling of the population have been too much neglected, and what has been particularly neglected is, that no distinction has been made between a library for a manufacturing town and a library for a university town. No general rules for the formation of a library can be laid down.

712. Mr. *Bunbury.*] You are understood to have stated, that in your opinion, there should be also some distinction between libraries, such as the Royal Library at Brussels, the British Museum here, and the Bibliothèque Royale at Paris, which are to be the great depôts for all sorts of literature, and a public library for the ordinary use of a provincial town?—Exactly; a great library ought to be the receptacle of books that are found nowhere else but there; and it is for that purpose that money is granted to them for buying books, which may add comparatively little value to the collection. There ought to be in every country a great receptacle for such books, where everything is of value. But in provincial libraries one should only take what is of universal or of local interest.

713. *Chairman.*] Many works which in the eyes of contemporaries appear trifling, may be very useful, as elucidating the history, manners, and progress of society for future times?—Exactly; and for that reason no great library ought to despise any publication. The very contemptible nature of the publication is an indication of the signs of the times, and ought to be collected in a large library, but ought not to form a part of a provincial library.

714. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Are any means taken to preserve, or to increase your valuable manuscripts, by having them copied?—Whenever original manuscripts cannot be bought, we contrive to get a copy of them; and there have been some very liberal instances of private proprietors coming forward, like the Prince de Ligne, who, at his own expense, had copies made of all the valuable manuscripts in his private library, which he sent to the public library of Brussels.

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715. Do you make copies of your own manuscripts?—No, unless they are prepared for publication, or the state of the manuscript is such, that if it were not copied the book itself might be exposed to be ruined, or damaged, or destroyed.

716. *Chairman.*] Has your Excellency any further suggestions to make to the Committee?—Nothing further occurs to me.

John Webster, Esq., called in; and Examined.

J. Webster, Esq.

717. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are an Advocate of Aberdeen, and acquainted with the University Library of that place?—Yes, I am; and I am acquainted with the general feeling of the people of the middle classes, whom I am in the way of seeing, as respects the library.

718. There are two colleges at Aberdeen, are there not?—There are; King's College and Marischal College.

719. In which of the colleges is the library?—The books are kept in King's College.

720. Have the members of Marischal College equal access to the library with the members of King's College?—The professors of both colleges have an equal right to the books, but the students of Marischal College have not an equal right to the books with the students of King's College, in so far that the students of Marischal College require a professor's order, which the students of King's College do not.

721. Has this privilege of the students of King's College over those of Marischal College been complained of by the students of Marischal College?—It is felt as disagreeable, I believe, by the professors of Marischal College, and judging by the number of students returned as taking out books from the library, which I should apprehend includes only the students of King's College, I should suppose that none of the students of Marischal College take books from it at all. There are 140 students returned as getting books from King's College Library, and as the number of students at King's College amounts at least to 140, I should apprehend that the students of the other college do not avail themselves of the privilege.

722. Have the inhabitants of Aberdeen access to the University Library?—Not at all, or not a suitable access, and we feel it a disagreeable situation to be placed in.

723. Does the University Library of Aberdeen receive funds from the public purse?—It does; it receives 320 *l.* a year.

724. That was given to them as a compensation for the withdrawal of the privilege which they enjoyed under the Copyright Act of receiving a copy of every author's publication?—It was so.

725. Is it considered in Aberdeen that in consequence of that public grant of money to the University Library it ought to be open to the public?—I may state that our feeling is just this; we should wish very much to have made available to us a public library upon a proper footing, but we apprehend that as long as the public give 320 *l.* to King's College Library we cannot come to the Legislature on behalf of Aberdeen with much face and ask an additional grant for our locality, and consequently, although we do not want to interfere with King's College if we can do it otherwise, we apprehend that our wants ought to have some attention paid to them in respect to that.

726. On what conditions are the public now admitted to read at the University Library of Aberdeen?—They are not permitted to read at all within the University Library of King's College; they were not so admitted when I was in the way of taking books out of the library, and I am now told by professors of Marischal College, by which my own idea is confirmed, that there is no reading room attached to King's College at all. They return that "every facility is afforded, and suitable accommodation provided for persons wishing to consult books." But I am satisfied that that does not apply to a reading room.

727. Have you ever been in the University Library?—I frequently used it for some years formerly.

728. Have you ever seen a reading room there?—There is only the library itself, where there is no convenience for readers. I have a letter from a professor of Marischal College, in which he says, "there is no reading room attached to the library where one can sit and consult an author."

729. Then your object in coming before the Committee is to express the feeling

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feeling on the part of the inhabitants of Aberdeen that they ought to be admitted to read in the library of the university?—That we ought to have a public library accessible to the public upon a proper footing, and I apprehend from the footing of King's College, that it can scarcely be interfered with; that the books are given under this Act in a way that, in fact, makes them truly the private property of the professors of the college, that is, the Act of 6 & 7 Will. 4. I infer that from the whole scope of that Act, which, it appears to me, may justify the professors of King's College in the right which they exercise of excluding or admitting the public very much at their own discretion. I see it is so interpreted in practice. The practice of all the university libraries in Scotland differs. I see that at St. Andrew's University Library they take the view that they can exclude the public, and have done so.

730. What are the words of the Act which you think make the books the private property of the professors?—These: "That it shall be lawful for the Lord High Treasurer, or for the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or any three or more of them, from time to time to issue and pay out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland to the person or persons, or body politic or corporate, proprietors or managers of each of the aforesaid libraries, such an annual sum as may be equal in value to, and a compensation for, the loss which any such library may sustain by reason of the said Act being repealed so far as relates to such library."

731. That does not give them any exclusive privilege or property?—Perhaps not; but it does not say anything about the public having a right to the libraries.

732. Inasmuch as that Act merely substituted a compensation in money for the privilege which the libraries formerly had of taking works from the authors, it left the question in other respects as it stood before?—Yes; but the usage before in King's College was even less liberal than at present.

733. That would depend upon the question of what is considered a public library; whether a library which received books from the authors ought to be viewed as a public library, but that Act of Parliament does not alter the pre-existing state of the question?—However the right may be in point of law, I am satisfied that the University of Aberdeen would not be very willing to acknowledge any right on the part of the public without a very strong expression on the part of Parliament of such being wished.

734. Is the feeling strong on the part of the people of Aberdeen that the University Library should be open to the public?—The feeling prevails without doubt that the professors of the University Library, probably founded on long usage, and, however hard the case, have perhaps the power of imposing such restrictions as they do; but the public undoubtedly wish that, both for the middle classes and those beneath them, the means should be afforded in such a locality as Aberdeen of a convenient and free access to a good library.

735. Would the University of Aberdeen have the means of accommodating the public in the library if free access were given to all readers?—As to King's College I really do not know; Marischal College could do so, I am satisfied, without increasing the building, which is quite new, very large, and very convenient. I might mention, for the information of those who are not acquainted with the local circumstances of Aberdeen, that King's College is inconvenient in every respect; it is situate in a small town about a mile from the manufacturing, commercial, and shipping town of Aberdeen, with which it is quite unconnected, being under a separate municipal government, and in fact an entirely different place altogether, and a good way remote; in fact it has very little connexion with the city of Aberdeen. Then the hours at present would also make it impossible for men of business and professional men to avail themselves of the library. The library is only open to those having professors' orders, which you observe are necessary, from 11 to 1 a.m.

736. Your observations would extend as much to the formation of a new library in the mercantile part of Aberdeen as to opening the library in King's College?—They would. At the same time, we see of course that there is a difficulty in asking Parliament to give us an additional grant when already there is one, and therefore we would wish to benefit by it

737. Would there be any inclination on the part of the municipal body at Aberdeen, the town council, do you think, to form a public library?—The town council of Aberdeen have, I believe, already petitioned in favour of the object contemplated by the motion for this Committee, and I think I may say that

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the town council, and in general the middle and professional classes of Aberdeen, would be extremely willing to do something in aid of such a purpose. I think it would be but fair to do it before we could expect a public grant. I should deem it, I may say, with respect to the local circumstances of Aberdeen, to be quite necessary that it should be to a certain extent a lending library as well as one where people could read in the library.

738. Do you think that such an institution is much wanted in Aberdeen, and that it would do great good to the working classes?—I am perfectly satisfied that both to them and the class above them, the mercantile and professional men of Aberdeen, it would do great good.

739. Do you think that the people of Scotland, having generally received, from the nature of their institutions, a good education, having been more fortunate in that circumstance than the people of many other countries, it would be desirable to follow up the result of that good education by giving them the means of instructing themselves through the agency of public libraries in after life?—I do not know anything of other places, but I can speak personally of the strong feeling entertained by the professional and middle classes in Aberdeen in favour of such an establishment. We have no such institution near our locality of which we can have the use we require.

740. Do you think that the same feeling exists in other towns in other parts of Scotland?—I am not able to speak to that.

741. Mr. *Bunbury*.] Do you think, from your knowledge of Aberdeen, that, supposing the power were given to the town council to levy a small rate for the purpose of establishing a public library, it would be agreeable to the wishes of the majority of the town that such a rate should be levied?—We do not like increasing rates in Scotland; but I think the general feeling would be, that if the Legislature would help us we should begin ourselves, and I apprehend it would rather be by providing a locale, which we would do, for depositing the books; and by means of private subscriptions from people willing to aid and assist in the library, to, perhaps, defray the expenses of it. I do not think that a rate would be acceptable, by which a fund would be raised from among the body of five or ten pounders, for the library; I do not think that would be liked.

742. *Chairman*.] But might there not be a Parliamentary permissive power of levying a rate, if the inhabitants should wish it?—I doubt very much, from my experience, whether that would answer. I think a rate would not be liked in Aberdeen.

743. But might not they have the power to levy it if they liked, is the question?—I quite understand; but I fear it would be inoperative, in my opinion. The main object would be better secured by making it necessary that before you gave any aid to it we should do something for ourselves, and I think the means would readily be procured in that way. I think there would be no difficulty in getting a locality and subscriptions, the parties who made those subscriptions having perhaps some advantage in taking books from the library in some way or other. I am at the same time aware that the middle classes would wish the lower classes to participate in the advantage of a public grant. I have felt very strongly on this point; I think there are great advantages in making the library a public one, that is to say, to be viewed by the inhabitants of the locality as their own library, a character which a library belonging to or held in trust for the university scarcely possesses. If the case were wholly free from the question of your giving money already to King's College, it would be undoubtedly the best way, in my opinion, to free it from any connexion with the university.

744. Mr. *Bunbury*.] Do you think if a library freely open to the public were established in Aberdeen, it would be improved from time to time, and would receive bequests or donations from private individuals?—I have no doubt of it; I should think it more probable than as at present.

745. Much more if it was a public library open to all?—It would be upon that account that donations would be given, which will not be given as long as it stands upon its present footing.

746. *Chairman*.] Especially if those donations were recorded in some conspicuous manner in the library itself?—It would tend to call forth the local feeling of attachment of the inhabitants of the place.

747. Have you anything else which you wish to state to the Committee?—I believe I have stated already that to make it useful, from my acquaintance with the locality

of Aberdeen, it must be, to some extent, both a reading library and a lending library.

748. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Are there any parochial libraries in that part of Scotland?—Yes, there are. But those are, I apprehend, of a very different kind; they are attached commonly to churches, and consequently they are a good deal connected either with religious works, or with the literature of the particular church which they may be attached to.

749. Are there any circulating libraries in the town of Aberdeen?—There are.

750. Are they much frequented by the middling and lower classes?—They are much frequented by both classes.

751. What description of literature do they possess?—Very much novels and other ephemera. They do not at all supply the place of those public libraries which we wish for.

752. Then, as the Committee understand you, there is no library to which the public composing the lower and middling classes can have access now, except libraries containing theological works, or works of an ephemeral character and novels?—In answer to that, I should say again that, except King's College library, there is none at all answering the description of a useful public library, and as to it, in addition to the other disagreeable restrictions and drawbacks, the want of a printed catalogue I should mention as a great defect, considering that as a public library.

753. In point of fact, do many of the class to which you allude resort to that library?—No; the return shows that they do not; out of a population of 70,000, it appears that there are only 246 readers.

754. Mr. *Kershaw.*] There is no other public library in Aberdeen except the King's College Library?—Marischal College has also a library belonging to it, but its annual funds are, I believe, exceedingly trifling, and it is a very old library, and not calculated to be extensively useful; it does not meet the case at all, in fact.

755. Have any of the landed proprietors established parish or rural libraries?—I am not able to speak to the circumstances of the county; I know Aberdeen very well.

Rev. *Henry Christmas*, M.A., F.R.S., F.S.A., called in; and Examined.

Rev. *H. Christmas*, M.A., F.R.S., F.S.A.

756. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are a Clergyman of the Church of England, and the Librarian of Sion College, in the City of London?—Yes.

757. Sion College is near London-wall, is it not?—It is in London-wall.

758. What is the date of the foundation of Sion College?—About 1630.

759. Whom was it founded by?—It was founded by a Dr. White, the rector of St. Dunstan's in the West, who in the first place founded it as a row of alms-houses, and a few years later a Mr. Simpson, also a rector in the City of London, built above it a library, in which he put his own books, and which has subsequently been enriched by many donations.

760. On what conditions are the books accessible?—They are very easily accessible; any fellow of the college, that is to say, any incumbent in London, has a right to introduce, by a note, any reader for a twelvemonth, and a discretionary power is also given to the librarian to allow persons to consult the library whom he may consider qualified.

761. The primary object of the library was to be a library for the clergymen of the City of London belonging to the Established Church?—Yes.

762. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Are the Committee to understand that any incumbent of a parish in London is necessarily a fellow of the college?—Yes, within the City, and also those parts of parishes the mother church of which is within the City, Whitechapel for instance.

763. *Chairman.*] Can you state to the Committee the terms of the founder of the library by which he defined the admissibility of the readers?—No, he has not done so at all; the library is the property of the fellows.

764. They therefore may make what regulations they please?—They may make what regulations they please; the object of the fellows has ever been to throw it as much as possible open for the use of the public.

765. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Is it their property by will or by deed?—By the will of the founder.

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766. Is it by his will that the incumbent of all the metropolitan churches are fellows ?—Yes ; which will is confirmed by a charter of Charles the Second.

767. *Chairman.*] Have there been many accessions to your library by means of donations, as well as the one you have mentioned from Mr. Simpson ?—Yes, George Earl of Berkeley left it, in 1682, several thousand volumes ; Mr. James also, and several clergymen have left very important bequests of books to it.

768. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Are the terms of the charter the same as those of the will ?—So far as the will goes, the terms of the charter are the same.

769. But does the charter contain anything more than the will ; have you a copy of the charter ?—I have not it with me. The object of the charter is principally for the government of the college, to regulate the order in which the fellows should progressively become members of the court of assistants, and afterwards deans and presidents.

770. *Chairman.*] It refers rather to the whole constitution of the college than to the library ?—Yes ; the charter contains no rules for the library at all.

771. What number of volumes are there in the library ?—Our catalogue is not complete. I am engaged now in making the catalogue, but I should say that the number of volumes would range between 35,000 and 40,000.

772. Had you originally a grant of books under the copyright Act ?—We had.

773. Received from the authors on their publication ?—Yes.

774. And that was exchanged for a grant under the Compensation Copyright Act of 1837 ?—Yes.

775. What amount do you receive of public money in consequence of that compensation ?—£. 362. 15 s. 2 *d.*

776. What is the characteristic of the books in your library ?—There is a larger proportion than usual of theological works, but it is a general library. It is remarkable for this circumstance, that we have a very great amount of books which are either exceedingly rare or altogether unique.

777. Of what nature ?—Theological and historical, and also books of ancient science, and also some valuable early printed books, especially on continental theology.

778. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Those rare books, it is presumed, have principally come among the donations ?—Principally, indeed almost entirely ; a few have been purchased since.

779. *Chairman.*] When you say that it is rich in valuable historical works, what kind of history do you refer to ?—General history. I would say especially that we are rich in works concerning the history of the times of Charles I., and of the same period on the Continent.

780. Then one of your donors must have lived probably about that time, or died about that time ?—Several of them.

781. What is the present state of the books in the library ?—The present state of the books in the library is not favourable, the bindings of many of them are in a very bad condition, and it would require a considerable sum of money to bind them so as to make them likely to stand much wear and tear.

782. Do you attribute the present bad state of the books to any peculiar circumstances of inattention or insufficient accommodation ?—I should say that the cause is the insufficiency of accommodation in times past, and the damp, the former of which is now no longer existing, but we still suffer from damp.

783. Have you not proper means of warming the library rooms ?—But partially.

784. Are the books suffering materially from that circumstance ?—They are suffering ; it would be difficult to say to what extent they are suffering, but that they are suffering I can tell by perceiving that many of them are becoming spotted.

785. You are forming a catalogue, you say, of the library ?—Yes.

786. And will that soon be completed ?—I think it may take me from a year and a half to two years longer.

787. You, of course, think it very desirable to have a catalogue ?—So important, that I think a library is scarcely of any use without it.

788. The public being admissible, as you have stated, through the intervention of a fellow of the college or through the librarian, how far do the public make use of the library ?—In order to answer that question I must observe that our library is a lending library ; the number of readers, I think, is between 300 and

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400 in the course of the year, but the number of the volumes taken from the library amounts, I should say, to a very considerable number; speaking from a rough guess, unprepared with statistics on the point, I should say that from 5,000 to 6,000 volumes are taken from the library in the course of the year and returned.

789. Are they exclusively taken by the clergy?—As the librarian, I can only recognise the orders of the fellows; they are, I do not doubt, taken by the fellows for the use of other persons.

790. What is the number of the readers who frequent the library?—I think not more than between 300 and 400 a year.

791. And are all those persons admitted through the introduction of the clergy?—They are.

792. The clergy themselves, we presume, take the books out principally for their own reading?—Yes.

793. On what terms are the books lent out?—They are lent out on the responsibility of the fellows themselves. A fellow sends an order for a book, which is delivered to his messenger, he becoming responsible for the safe return of the book.

794. What additions are made annually to the library, if any?—We have expended the amount granted to us in lieu of the copyright, in books, and regularly given in our return to the paymaster of the civil service, giving the title of every book, and the price paid for it, together with the name of the bookseller from whom it was purchased.

795. What is the general annual amount of books added to the library under that grant?—It varies very much; we have in some years, when it has been necessary to purchase books of very great value, but of comparatively small number of volumes (large folios, for instance), had but a small number; in other years they have amounted to probably a thousand volumes.

796. You have, however, very considerably augmented the number and value of the books in your library since you have had this grant?—Very considerably.

797. And you go on perpetually adding to the books?—Yes.

798. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Do you consider yourself bound by the terms of the Act to lay out the money received as an annual grant in the purchase of new books, or that you may apply it to any purposes of the library, such as rebinding the old books for instance?—We have not considered ourselves at liberty to apply it to the rebinding of the books. We have, generally speaking, considered it as to be applied to the purchasing of new books. It was considered that the Copyright Act was intended to operate in encouraging modern literature; but that if we had the opportunity of purchasing any rare and valuable books not in the library, we might do so in addition to the new books purchased.

799. *Chairman.*] And you observe that rule in making your purchases?—Yes.

800. The quarter of London in which your library is situated is the very centre of the City, is it not?—Yes.

801. Is there any other public library within a moderate distance of your library?—I am not aware of any public library, unless subscription libraries be called so.

802. But no public libraries strictly so called?—No public libraries.

803. How far does the influence of your library, do you consider, extend over the population?—I should be inclined to say to a very great extent; for I do not think that any work of very great consequence has been written for many years past without the author having directly or indirectly recourse to our library.

804. Within what radius do you think it operates?—I can hardly say, but I think that all over England our books have been circulated.

805. The question was meant to apply to the persons who come to read in your library; from what distance do they come?—Some of our most constant readers are from as far off as Hampstead, Camberwell, and Brixton. Our library is of so valuable a character, and affords so many facilities, that we have persons come to us who would hardly be likely to go anywhere else.

806. Do you lend any of your books, without distinction of value, to the fellows?—No; there are a few books which we keep under lock and key. I do not allow them to go out unless I have an express order to do so.

807. Those being books of great value?—Mostly; not so much books of great value on account of their contents, as on account of their rarity, as early printed books; Caxton's, and so on.

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808. Those are your most valuable books?—Yes.

809. And those valuable books are valuable principally on account of the earliness of their printing, or are they rare editions, or what?—We have books valuable in all respects; books valuable on account of their dates, books valuable on account of their extreme rarity, and also fine editions.

810. What is the quality or character of the readers who frequent your reading room?—More clergymen than any others.

811. Do any people of the working class frequent the room?—I am not aware that there have ever been any at all.

812. Can you give us an idea of the class of those not clergymen who habitually frequent the room?—We have a few physicians and men engaged in antiquarian pursuits.

813. But no persons of the middle and working classes of society?—Of the working classes none.

814. Any of the middle classes of society, such as shopkeepers and persons of that sort?—A few, but not many.

815. Can you suggest any means by which that library may be rendered more useful to the public?—I should think that it might be made so by being put on the footing of a subscription library, so that more persons might take books out than those who can do so now; that the right of taking works out might be purchased in that way.

816. Then you would admit a greater number of persons in that way to whom books might be lent out on payment of a subscription?—Yes.

817. Mr. *Bunbury*.] Could that be done compatibly with the present terms of the charter of foundation, or would it require a new arrangement altogether?—I apprehend that it would not at all interfere with the terms of the charter.

818. *Chairman*.] You still would leave the library open to readers who might come to read in the library?—Yes.

819. You would impose no restriction upon them?—None whatever.

820. But you would extend the lending facilities of the library, by imposing a sort of rate upon the books lent out?—Yes.

821. How many readers could be accommodated in the reading room that you have now, do you think?—I think we might, with considerable convenience, accommodate 200 readers at a time.

822. How many are there now at a time generally?—Rarely more than six or seven.

823. Mr. *Bunbury*.] Is it a comfortable room?—It is a very large room, 120 feet long, of a height sufficient to be well ventilated, and warmed by Perkins's apparatus with hot water.

824. The library and reading room are one?—They are one; there is no reading room separate from the library.

825. *Chairman*.] But 200 you think might be well accommodated?—I think they could, and judging from the way in which they are accommodated at the British Museum, I should say more.

826. Would it involve any considerable expense to extend the number of readers from seven to 200?—It would necessitate there being more attendants.

827. Would it be of considerable value in that densely-crowded part of London that there should be facility given for 200 readers, instead of six or seven?—I should be inclined to think that it would be very greatly so.

828. And would be appreciated by the public?—I think so.

829. How far could the building be improved or extended, so as to improve the library in any way?—The building might be arranged for that purpose, but I do not think that it requires extension.

830. What does the building consist of now?—The whole institution consists of the library, a house for the librarian, the large hall, which has been used for quarterly dinners, and the body of almshouses.

831. Who are the members of the collegiate body?—The incumbents of the City of London.

832. Then they elect a committee, do they not?—Yes; the fellows become members of the court in rotation, by seniority.

833. Have there been any recent alterations made in the buildings?—Very considerable.

834. What has been the nature of those alterations?—The almspeople have been removed from the rooms which they occupied under the library, a new

building has been erected on purpose for them, and the rooms which they formerly occupied have been thrown into one long room, with two or three smaller rooms adjacent, and added to the library.

835. Has not that alteration of the building involved great expense to the corporation ?—Very great expense.

836. What is the present state of the funds of the corporation of Sion College ?—I can hardly speak with very great closeness as to the state of the funds, but I have reason to believe that they are in an unsatisfactory condition.

837. What is the cause of that reduced state of the funds ?—The necessity, I believe, for paying the interest of money borrowed in consequence of the new buildings.

838. Then is the corporation involved considerably in debt now ?—I am inclined to believe that it is greatly involved.

839. What is the payment to the librarian ?—I have hitherto received a salary of 150 *l.* a year.

840. Is not that payment going to be continued ?—I am rather in doubt whether it can be continued ; whether there will be any funds. I am given to understand that there are no funds for it.

841. Mr. *Bunbury*.] Are the assistant librarians paid ?—No, there are none ; I was appointed sole librarian and secretary.

842. *Chairman*.] Is there any payment prescribed in the charter for the librarian ?—There is a librarian directed to be appointed, but no specific salary appointed.

843. There was an Act of Parliament passed, was there not, to authorize the college to make those alterations in the building ?—There was.

844. Was there any specification of the sum to be paid to the librarian in that Act ?—There was no mention of the librarian at all.

845. Mr. *Bunbury*.] What are the sources of income ?—Certain estates in the counties of Essex and Hertfordshire, together with houses in London.

846. The houses in London are probably rather an increasing source of income ?—No, I am sorry to say they are rather decreasing ; they are houses in London-wall, Sion College Gardens, and Philip Lane.

847. *Chairman*.] What did the new Act enable the corporation to do ?—To borrow money on the security of the estates.

848. Has the college borrowed more money than it can pay the interest of ?—I have never seen the books since, therefore I do not know otherwise than from the statement I have just made, that I have reason to believe so.

849. Is there any audit of the books ?—There is an audit.

850. Any audit of the accounts ?—There is an audit every year, but I do not know anything with certainty about it.

851. Mr. *Kershaw*.] During what hours of the day is the library open ?—From ten o'clock to four.

852. But not at all in the evening ?—Not at all in the evening.

853. Mr. *Thicknesse*.] Have you suffered any loss of books from the system of lending them out ?—We have suffered a small loss, but so small that I think it is scarcely to be weighed against the advantages of lending. I should think we have not lost 20 *l.* worth of books in 20 years.

854. *Chairman*.] Have you any further information which you wish to give to the Committee ?—No, I think not ; I do not know that there is anything more save this, that all that is necessary, I think, to make the library perfectly available, so far as it is possible for any library to be made available, is to secure the books from further dilapidation from the damp. I could wish certainly to have more attendants than myself alone there, with so large a library and with such important books.

855. But do you consider that the state of the funds of the college itself now is such as to endanger the existence of the library ?—I am very much inclined to think it is, but, as I said before, of that I can give no certain information, not having access to the books.

856. The books are kept strictly under the supervision of the treasurer, it is presumed ?—Yes.

857. Mr. *Kershaw*.] The library is under the management of a committee ?—Of a court.

858. Of how many does that consist ?—The president, two deans, and four assistants.

859. How often do they meet ?—I think they meet on the average about five or six times in the year ; but I speak with some doubt on all subjects connected with the management of the college, because the late Act, as it appears to me, has

Rev. *H. Christmas,* M.A., F.R.S., F.S.A.

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has entirely overthrown the old system. Should it be necessary to obtain exact information concerning it, I would give you the name of the president.

860. Who is the president?—The present president is the Rev. Robert Monro, chaplain of Bridewell Hospital; but on Tuesday next is the anniversary, and I believe then the person in rotation is the Rev. James Lupton, the rector of St. Michael, Queenhithe, who is now the senior dean. Is it necessary that I should mention to the Committee that I believe an application has been made to a Master in Chancery as to the question whether it is necessary to provide any funds for the librarian, and that he has decided that a librarian is not necessary.

861. That no librarian is necessary, or that funds are not available for a librarian?—That no librarian is necessary.

862. Then are the books to be left without any librarian?—That I do not know; that is to be left, I suppose, to the Court of Chancery.

863. Mr. *Bunbury.*] That of course not being a decision as to the expediency of having a librarian, but merely as to the terms of the founder's will and the charter?—No; the terms of the recent Act; that the recent Act does not admit of one. The founder's will expressly provided that there should be a librarian, and also an *Ostiarius,* as he called him, or doorkeeper.

864. *Chairman.*] Then the library is in danger in consequence of those alterations which have been made, and of the excess of expenditure on the part of the corporation?—I cannot say that; I can only give you the few facts which I have already stated.

865. Mr. *Bunbury.*] If the Committee understand you rightly, you are the only person who is to attend in the library; supposing you were to go abroad, would there be any attendant in the library?—I should provide an attendant.

866. You are bound either to be present yourself, or to provide an attendant to be present at all times during which the library is open, for the salary that you now receive?—I suppose that I should be strictly bound to be present myself; that I cannot be absent without an express permission from the Court.

867. *Chairman.*] Then not only is the salary going to be withdrawn, but the librarian is going to be withdrawn also?—That I do not know; I only know that the Master in Chancery has decided that, under the Act, a librarian is not essentially necessary.

Martis, 1° *die Maii,* 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Thicknesse.
Sir John Walsh.
Mr. Milnes.
Mr. Bunbury.
Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Mackinnon.

Mr. Wyld.
Mr. Hamilton.
Sir Harry Verney.
Mr. Charteris.
Mr. Ewart.

WILLIAM EWART, Esq. in the Chair.

The Reverend *Philip Hale,* B. A., called in; and Examined.

Rev. *P. Hale,* B. A.

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868. *Chairman.*] I believe you are the Librarian of Archbishop Tenison's Library, in the city of Westminster, are you not?—I am.

869. What is the exact locality of that library?—It is situated behind the National Gallery.

870. Who was the founder of that library?—Doctor Thomas Tenison, some time vicar of St. Martin's, and afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury.

871. What was the date of the foundation?—1685.

872. On what terms did Archbishop Tenison form the library: perhaps you will give us the words of the charter, or foundation, or ancient document which specifies the terms, whatever it may be?—It may be as well first to mention the object with which Archbishop Tenison founded it.

873. If you please.—" Doctor Thomas Tenison having considered that, in the precinct of the city and liberty of Westminster, there are great numbers of ministers and other studious persons, and especially in the parish of St. Martin, where, besides the vicar and his assistants, there are several noblemen's chaplains perpetually residing; as also that there is not in the said precinct (as in London)

London) any one shop of a stationer fully furnished with books of various learning, nor any noted library, excepting that of St. James (which belongs to his Majesty, and to which there is no easy access), that of Sir Robert Cotton (which consisteth chiefly of books relating to the antiquities of England), and the library of the Dean and Chapter of St. Peter's Church, Westminster (which is, as the other two are, inconvenient for the use of all the said precinct, by reason of its remoter situation): and having further considered that some place nigh the church of St. Martin is, by reason of the new buildings about Petit France and Albemarle House, become well nigh the centre of the abovesaid precinct; and that a building joined to part of that parish tenement in the new churchyard which is now in the occupation of Mr. Mayor, on the north, running west on the said churchyard wall, in part over against the Duke of Monmouth's stables, and in part over against Mr. Armorer's garden in the mews, and built on pillars towards the east, will be the most conveniently situate for the abovesaid purpose in that place; as also that the engines may stand conveniently under this fabric, and that the place where they now stand may be free for burial places: He, the said Dr. Tenison, hath been inclined, upon the abovesaid considerations (in case his worthy friends the gentlemen of the vestry and present churchwardens approve of this design), to erect in that place a fabric for a public library for the use of the students of the abovesaid precinct, at his own proper costs and charges, and to make some settlement for the support of the said fabric, and towards the maintaining of a keeper of the said intended library." This shows the general design of the library, that it was for the public, especially for the clergy of the city of Westminster and for other studious persons. This is more clearly specified in the deed: "The bookes in the said library to be for public use, but especially for the use of the vicar and lecturer of the said parish, and of the said schoolmaster and usher for the time being, and the parsons of the parish churches of St. James's and St. Anne's, Westminster, and the King's chaplains in ordinary for the time being; to which library they shall have free access at all seasonable times, to read or peruse any the said bookes, without fee or reward." I might mention, that at that time the parish of St. Martin comprehended the parishes, and in fact all the district now occupied by St. Martin's, St. Anne's, St. James's, and St. George's, Westminster.

874. Is that a charter?—It is called "Orders and Constitutions to be observed by the schoolmaster and library-keeper of the schoole and library near the parish church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, in the county of Middlesex, and by the usher of the said schoole, erected, founded, and endowed by the most Reverend Father in God, Thomas, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury."

875. From the words of the constitution, you infer that it is intended for a public library?—Yes, with reference to ministers and other studious persons.

876. Is it now a public library?—It is still a public library.

877. Would any person have access to it?—They would have access to it *de jure*, within the limits of St. Martin's, St. Anne's, St. James, and St. George; those constituting the ancient parish of St. Martin.

878. You do not consider that the terms of the constitution enable you to admit the public from elsewhere besides St. Martin's parish?—Except by courtesy.

879. Mr. *Wyld*.] Have you not recently opened the library to the parishioners generally, and added new books to it?—Not to Archbishop Tenison's collection. The room is now occupied by the members of the St. Martin's Subscription Reading Society; they have also occupied certain of the shelves formerly filled by the Archbishop's books; they have their own books, but they gain no extra right; because, as parishioners, they had an equal right before to go into the room, and now they only have the additional privilege of newspapers and other popular literature, which have been introduced by their own committee. The two institutions are perfectly distinct; they have separate constitutions, separate committees, separate management, and separate officers; and a person, by subscribing to St. Martin's Subscription Library, gains no greater access to Archbishop Tenison's Library than he would have if he were not a subscriber to the former.

880. Does the collection of Archbishop Tenison principally consist of books of old divinity?—No, it is composed of general literature; perhaps the generality of the books are upon theological subjects, but it comprises all studies.

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881. Sir *J. Walsh.*] I understand that a subscription society has been established, composed of the parishioners of those four parishes, who have a meeting-room in this library?—Yes.

882. They would previously have had the right of access to all those books, in their quality of parishioners?—Yes.

883. Consequently they cannot be restricted from access to the books merely from the circumstance of their becoming members of this reading society?—No; but they do not gain any further power of access, because they had it before.

884. Mr. *Mackinnon.*] By what construction of the statute or of the incorporation do you limit the right to the parish; because it appears to me by the terms that it is extended to the whole of the public?—The idea which Dr. Thomas Tenison appears to have had in his mind when he contemplated the foundation, was to benefit the city and liberty of Westminster, and especially the parish of St. Martin.

885. Is that stated in the deed of incorporation or the charter?—No, it is from an existing manuscript, containing a memorandum of what his intentions were.

886. The founder says, especially the parish of St. Martin; but he does not appear to me to limit it to the parish of St. Martin at all?—I should say at the same time that this which I quote is a report of a committee appointed by the vestry, on the 24th of December 1835, to inquire into Archbishop Tenison's library and free school. This is not said to be an authentic copy of the deed of constitution.

887. *Chairman.*] What does the deed of constitution say?—"Orders and constitutions to be observed by the schoolmaster and library keeper of the schoole and library near the parish church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, in the county of Middlesex, and by the usher of the said schoole, erected, founded, and endowed by the most Reverend Father in God, Thomas, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury."

888. That was composed by Archbishop Tennison himself, or under his orders, I presume?—Yes. It says, "The bookes in the said library to be for public use, but especially for the use of the vicar and lecturer of the said parish, and of the said schoolmaster and usher for the time being, and the parsons of the parish churches of St. James's and St. Anne's, Westminster, and the King's chaplains in ordinary for the time being; to which library they shall have free access at all seasonable times, to read or peruse any the said bookes, without fee or reward."

889. Mr. *Mackinnon.*] How do the authorities interpret this clause?—It has been interpreted in practice to confine it to the ancient parish of St. Martin.

890. *Chairman.*] Are those the whole of what might be called the "Terms of foundation"?—I think they are.

891. Mr. *Wyld.*] Anterior to 1835, I believe, neither the public in general nor the parishioners of St. Martin's were admitted to that library?—I believe they were.

892. There was some dispute, was not there?—I have been so informed; and a committee was appointed to inquire what could be done.

893. *Chairman.*] Do they now admit any extra-parochial readers?—I think not.

894. Who are the trustees?—The vicar of St. Martin's, and the two churchwardens *ex officio*, the Honourable Pleydell Bouverie, Sir Edward Cust, Mr. Taylor of Charing-cross, Mr. Staunton of the Strand, Mr. Pouncy of Long-acre, and Mr. Haward of Leicester-square.

895. How are they appointed?—I believe the present trustees were appointed by a Master in Chancery.

896. Are they appointed for life?—They are life trustees.

897. How came the matter to be before the Court of Chancery?—The trust had lapsed.

898. Then the Lord Chancellor created new trustees?—Yes.

899. On what terms are the new trustees created?—On no terms, I believe, contrary to the old.

900. Have they the power of renewal of themselves?—They fill up, I believe, as soon as they are reduced to three.

901. Do they fill up by their own choice?—They do.

902. Have there been any great donations made to the library besides Archbishop Tenison's?—In the early part of the history of the library there were a great

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great many donations; but I do not know that any have been made since the middle of the last century. This report states that, with the exception of a few books given by the late Granville Sharpe, esq., in 1803, no addition has been made during the last 60 years.

903. Can you give the Committee an account of the previous donations?—I cannot give you an account of them, but I can give you some of the names; Dr. Courayer, Sir Paul Ricaut, Dr. Gibson, Bishop of London, Dr. Jortin, John Evelyn, and several others.

904. How do you account for the paucity of donations of late years?—The interest of the public in the library has decreased.

905. Owing to what causes?—I do not know whether I ought to go beyond my own time; but it is reported that previously to the year 1835, or somewhere thereabouts, the library had not been opened as it ought to have been.

906. Mr. *Mackinnon*.] It seems scarcely to be open as it ought to be now?—I do not think it is.

907. Not according to the terms of the constitution?—The endeavour which the trustees have made to make it public has, to a certain extent, shut it up.

908. *Chairman*.] How is that?—They have opened it to subscribers, and the subscribers come and read newspapers, and play chess, and so on, and by consequence the old books are not read.

909. Then is there a separate room for the chess players and the readers of newspapers?—There is not.

910. They play chess and read newspapers in the library, do they?—Yes.

911. Sir *J. Walsh*.] It becomes a sort of club, then?—Yes; it is, perhaps, simply like a Mechanics' Institution, holding its meetings in Archbishop Tenison's library.

912. And outside the doors there is a list of the lectures to be given?—There is.

913. Mr. *Brotherton*.] I presume it is not much frequented by the inhabitants?—Since I have been there, which is 18 months, one studious person only has applied to come regularly to read the books; he did so for three or four days, and left it in despair.

914. *Chairman*.] Supposing a person presented himself to be allowed to read, on what terms would you admit him; what inquiries would you preliminarily make?—None other than to ascertain that he came from within the ancient precincts of the parish of St. Martin. I think that every person in those four parishes has an absolute right to demand to see the books at any reasonable time, without fee or reward; and the idea of subscription is totally contrary, not only to the letter, but to the spirit of the founder.

915. What is the number of volumes?—It is stated in this report to be about 6,000; I do not think they amount to so much as that. I should put them at under 4,000.

916. What is the character of the books?—It is as far as it goes a universal library; it embraces works on all topics, and has about 70 manuscripts.

917. What is the present state of the books?—They are in as bad a state as books can be.

918. In consequence of what?—In consequence of their never being taken down to be cleaned, and in consequence of the heat of the gas destroying the bindings of the books.

919. May they not be in some danger from persons coming in and using the room merely as a club-room; might not persons without being observed take down the books?—They are under lock and key, secured in cases.

920. Have you a catalogue of the library?—We have.

921. An accurate one?—I can rarely find any particular book that I look for, but I attribute that chiefly to the disarrangement of the books rather than perhaps to the absence of them.

922. From what you state it appears that this library is very little frequented by the public?—Those who come for the purpose of consulting the Tenison library are few.

923. As a library it is not frequented?—As a library it is not frequented.

924. Is it a lending library; are the books lent out at all?—No.

925. Do you think there would be more circulation of the books if it were made into a lending library?—I do not think it would be judicious to make it a lending library.

926. Why

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926. Why not?—On account of the difficulty of obtaining security for the care of the books, or for the return of them.

927. Are any additions made annually, by purchase, to the books in the library?—None.

928. Have you any funds from which you might make such additions?—The funds are very small.

929. What is the amount of the funds?—£.112. 10*s.* per annum.

930. What becomes of that sum?—£.30 a year is paid to the head master of the school, who is *ex-officio* librarian; 30*l.* a year to the under master, and 10*l.* a year to the librarian.

931. Then there is an *ex-officio* librarian and an under librarian?—No; the head master is *ex-officio* librarian.

932. Mr. *Mackinnon.*] How is the amount expended?—I can only tell you the stated payments that must be made: to the master 30*l.* a year, 10*l.* to the librarian, and 30*l.* a year to the second master. Those are the only fixed payments that I know of. Then the assessed taxes, half of which the trustees pay, and half the master pays; beyond that I know of no other expenses.

933. *Chairman.*] Then I apprehend there are two payments made for the duties of librarian, if I understand you rightly?—No; the library is over the school; the head master of the school is the librarian.

934. Then does he receive his pay as librarian, or as head master of the school?—He receives 10 *l.* a year as librarian.

935. And 30 *l.* as head master?—Yes, and 30 *l.* as head master; and the second master has 30 *l.*, and the librarian has 10 *l.*, the head master being librarian also.

936. Mr. *Wyld.*] There is a school and a library on the same foundation?—Yes.

937. *Chairman.*] But if I am right in my inference from what you say, this library, as a public library, has no influence upon the population of that part of London as a source of literature and knowledge?—None whatever.

938. Do not you conceive that it was the intention of Archbishop Tenison that it should have been a source of learning and instruction to the people?—I conceive that Archbishop Tenison was particularly anxious for education generally; and that the school and library being on one foundation, shows how anxious he was that there should be education for the young, and reading for the adult.

939. In what way do you think this library could be made more available to the public use, and more conformable to the original intentions of the founder?—First by restoring it to its original condition as a uniform body, with only one object; now it has two; and, secondly, by restoring the curator to his office as the head.

940. As I understand, there are now two different bodies?—There is the committee of the St. Martin's Subscription Library, and the trustees, with separate sets of officers; a secretary and messengers to the subscription library, and myself, the librarian to the trustees of the foundation.

941. Then the committee of the subscription library must have had the consent of the trustees of Archbishop Tenison's library, before they could have appropriated the library to this new purpose?—Yes.

942. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Have they a distinct apartment?—No. With regard to a former question that was asked, I have the testimony of Mr. Thomas Rodd, whose death one has had occasion lately to lament; the bookseller in Great Newport-street; which is to this effect: "The books and manuscripts in the library are many of them of great curiosity, rarity, and value, but have suffered injury from dust and neglect; were they properly cleaned and repaired, and the room made comfortable to readers, it would, in my opinion, be much frequented, and accessions be made to the library in the way of books presented."

943. Sir *J. Walsh.*] What was the date of the foundation of this reading-room?—1839.

944. Mr. *Wyld.*] Immediately after the appointment of the new trustees?—Four years after the report. It would be fair to say that the subject is under the consideration of the trustees at present; having been brought to their notice by a memorial

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a memorial on the subject, which has been signed by several of the clergy and studious persons within that district.

945. Sir *J. Walsh.*] Do you conceive that the application of this room to the purposes of a reading-room is incompatible with the original purposes of the founder ?—Quite so.

946. *Chairman.*] Are there any rooms in the building which might be available for a reading-room, besides the library ?—The master has a residence which might be so available.

947. You could not take away the master's residence, could you ?—If you found him a better.

948. Can you suggest any mode by which the building itself might be rendered more useful to the public ?—No, I cannot.

949. Are there any funds which could be so revised and improved in their administration as to leave a new source of revenue for the library ?—The funds are derived from Old South Sea annuities and South Sea stock, and from 73 *l.* a year granted by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, in lieu of a house once in St. Martin's-lane, pulled down during the improvements.

950. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Were those buildings erected by the founder for the support of the school, or the support of the library ?—Both the school and the library formed in his mind but one design.

951. Then who have the power to apportion the funds for the school and the library ?—The trustees.

952. Then they allow 10 *l.* a year for the library, and the rest for the school ? The 10 *l.* a year is fixed for the library by the founder.

953. *Chairman.*] Now you have stated all the funds appropriable both to the school and the library, have you not ?—I have.

954. Has your situation in London enabled you to observe the wants of the working class of people with regard to libraries; and are you aware whether they would be willing to avail themselves of libraries, and whether any modern libraries have been formed on a more liberal scale for the purpose of facilitating the reading of the working classes ?—I do not feel competent to state an opinion on that subject.

955. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Can you make any suggestion whereby this library might be made more extensively useful to the neighbourhood ?—I think if the curator were restored to his office, and the library put under his control entirely, and also if it were restricted entirely to the purposes for which it was founded, it would be more useful than it is now.

956. Mr. *Wyld.*] Does not the lighting which you now have seriously injure and deteriorate the books already belonging to the collection ?—It does; and that has been stated to the trustees in a memorial, a copy of which I have here : "That the heat of the gas and the accumulation of dust is destroying the books and the manuscripts, some of which can never be replaced."

957. *Chairman.*] You think that if it was properly regulated, this library might be of great utility to the people of that part of London ?—To all classes I believe it would.

958. How many readers could be accommodated in the library, supposing it was restored to its original character ?—Thirty, with ease; the library is as large as the school-room, making deductions for the shelves.

959. Have you any other observations which you wish to offer to the Committee ?—No, I believe not.

Mr. *Richard Cogan*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *R. Cogan.*

960. *Chairman.*] YOU are the Librarian of Dr. Williams's Library, in Red Cross-street in the City, are you not ?—I am.

961. Will you state to us the nature of the foundation, and the terms of the deed of foundation of that library ?—Dr. Williams died in the year 1716, and it was known previous to his death that he had formed the design of establishing a library for the benefit of the public, and he directed his trustees to select a piece of ground either within or without the city of London, to erect a building; which was done.

962. What were the funds that he left ?—The trustees obtained a grant from the Court of Chancery in the suit under which the affairs of the trusts have always been administered, a certain sum for that purpose; I do not know what

the grant was exactly, but it was somewhere about 1,500*l.*; the ground cost 450*l.*, but this was not a sufficient sum to complete the building; and the trustees at the time not being willing to apply to the Court again, completed it at their own expense.

963. What was the nature of the funds out of which Dr. Williams created this library?—It was Dr. Williams' own private library; and at the death of Dr. Bates he purchased the doctor's library, and added that collection to his own.

964. How came it under the administration of the Court of Chancery?—The original trustees put themselves into the Court for the purpose of removing all responsibility from themselves; everything goes before the Court; all the expenses connected with the trust in every way; nothing is done without the consent of a Master in Chancery.

965. At what time did they do this?—I believe immediately upon the establishment of the trust; the library was opened in 1729.

966. Did Dr. Williams leave any funds to the library?—No, only his books.

967. What are the funds applicable to the library?—In 1805 an application was made to the Court of Chancery, and 50 *l.* per annum was allowed.

968. Out of what funds?—Out of the general funds of the trust.

969. What trust?—Dr. Williams's trust.

970. Then Dr. Williams must have left some funds, of course?—Yes.

971. What are they?—That does not come under my department; but I believe they amount to about 1,600 *l.* a year.

972. Do you know what is the appropriation of those funds?—To schools in Wales and elsewhere, the education of young men at Glasgow, and divinity scholarships.

973. How was the library supported and the librarian paid in the interval between the death of Dr. Williams and the time when the sum was appropriated by the Court of Chancery, that is in 1805; how was the library supported in the meantime?—By donations.

974. How was the librarian paid?—Dr. Williams left 10 *l.* a year for his librarian; since then it has been increased to 70 *l.* a year.

975. What was Dr. Williams's object in founding it; what are the terms of the foundation, or do the terms of the foundation define the object of the founder?—It is not defined at all; it is left under the management of his trustees.

976. To what purposes have the trustees extended or limited the use of the library?—The library is open to every one, without any exception.

977. How long has it been so?—I believe from the first; but it was necessary, till a few years since, to have an order from a trustee, if a gentleman wanted to consult a book; now the trustees have given me the power to admit any person to read.

978. Mr. *Wyld.*] Would the trustees have the power to close the library if they thought proper?—No.

979. You say it is now open to the public, free of expense?—Yes.

980. *Chairman.*] Then if any person came there and asked you for a book, whoever he might be, and from whatever part of the world he might come, would you supply him with the book?—I should immediately allow him to have it, unless I had any reason to doubt his respectability.

981. Without any further inquiry?—Yes.

982. Should you ask him to write down his address, or anything of that kind?—Yes.

983. That is all you do?—Yes.

984. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Are donations received from the public now?—Yes; but not so many as there used to be.

985. But although you receive those donations, I suppose the library is vested in the trustees?—Yes.

986. No one has any power over the property but the trustees?—No one.

987. *Chairman.*] Have you had any donations since the foundation of the library?—Yes, a great many.

988. Will you enumerate the donations?—Dr. William Harris, who was a friend of Dr. Williams and of the original trustees, bequeathed the whole of his library, about 2,000 or 3,000 volumes; and the Rev. Mr. Roe 400 or 500 volumes. Mr. Archer, Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Sheldon, and Mr. Davies were also large contributors.

989. At what dates; are they modern donations?—No; I do not know the exact date, but it is early in the trust.

990. Have you had many recent donations in modern times?—Not a great many.

991. They are more rare than formerly?—Yes, I think so.

992. What number of volumes have you in the library altogether?—I should think about 20,000.

993. What is the character of the books; of what nature are they?—The Doctor's own library, I think, consisted chiefly of works on theology, ecclesiastical history, and biography. It is a theological library.

994. Dr. Williams was an eminent dissenting divine, was not he?—Yes, a non-conformist divine, of the Presbyterian denomination.

995. Mr. *Milnes.*] This library is looked upon as the head quarters of dissenters, is not it?—No; the three denominations used to meet there, but not since the separation of the Presbyterian from the two other denominations.

996. At what time did that separation take place?—I think it was in 1832.

997. Did you receive donations of books from the united bodies before that time?—Yes.

998. Have the donations decreased since the separation?—No, I do not know that they have; we still receive them from the principal divines connected with the bodies.

999. *Chairman.*] What other books are there besides theological and historical books?—Some few in all the more important departments of learning

1000. Do you add much to the library now?—As much as the funds will permit. We have now a 100 *l.* per annum allowed when that sum can be spared from the surplus profits of the trusts estates.

1001. With that have you made additions annually to your library?—Yes.

1002. Have you ample room for your new books?—Yes.

1003. What accommodation have you for readers?—Very good; it is a large room; I should think that 50 or 60 might sit in it, or even more.

1004. How many readers have you?—The readers are not so many as they ought to be, though they are increasing.

1005. What is the class of readers who frequent the library?—Principally divines.

1006. Have you any people of the middle or working classes?—Very few.

1007. Mr. *Wyld.*] Principally students from the dissenting colleges, I presume?—No, principally divines.

1008. Mr. *Brotherton.*] What number should you say in a year?—It varies; I should say not more than 50 or 60 in the course of a year.

1009. Do you know whether there exists any deed which would specify the terms on which the library is vested in the trustees?—Nothing but the will, which I know of.

1010. Have you that with you?—No.

1011. *Chairman.*] What is the present state of the books?—Very good.

1012. Have you a catalogue?—Yes.

1013. A good catalogue?—Yes.

1014. I presume you consider the catalogue a key to the library?—Yes.

1015. Indispensable?—Yes.

1016. Is it a lending library?—Yes.

1017. On what terms are the books lent out?—By an order from a trustee, the trustee being the responsible person. There are certain books, such as cannot be replaced, which are not allowed to be taken out, but a considerable number of books are lent, and indeed more use is made of them in that way than in the reading-room.

1018. It is quite in the heart of the city of London?—It is not exactly in the heart; it is in Cripplegate Without.

1019. But from what you have said I draw the inference that its influence on the population of that part is very slight indeed as a library?—Very slight.

1020. Can you say whether Dr. Williams intended it to be an entirely public library or not?—I should think so.

1021. There are no specific terms expressing his intention, as we understand you?—Not that I am aware of.

1022, Mr. *Brotherton.*] When the Court of Chancery directed that a salary of

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of 70*l.* a year should be paid to the librarian, was it not coupled with some condition that the library should be free?—Not that I am aware of.

1023. *Chairman.*] Is Dr. Williams's Library the only public library in that part of London?—No; Sion College Library is close to it; the London Institution not far from it; and also the Congregational Library.

1024. Is that a public library?—I do not know.

1025. However, the city of London is better provided with libraries than the outlying parts of London, to a considerable extent, is it not?—Very much so.

1026. How many readers could be accommodated in the room?—It could accommodate 50 or 60, or more.

1027. Probably it is not known to the population that that library is so accessible?—I think it must be; I do not see how it is possible to be otherwise.

1028. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Are the books suitable to general readers?—More so now than they were formerly; they are principally theological works.

1029. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Has there been any great accession of books lately? —Not very great. We have a quarterly meeting of the trustees, and I always put upon the table the books presented during the quarter; sometimes four or five, sometimes more and sometimes less.

1030. *Chairman.*] But the number of readers does increase?—Yes, it has increased lately, certainly.

1031. Should you say, from your knowledge of the reading public, that there is a probability of its increasing, supposing facilities were given to people to read, particularly more modern works?—I think it might.

1032. Is there any way which you can suggest, by which this library might be made more extensively useful to the public?—I do not know of any way, except making it extensively known; the locality is bad.

1033. Have you any spare rooms there that could be available in case of an accession of readers?—Yes.

1034. What number of rooms have you now?—We have the committee-room, a large room down stairs, besides the front library, which committee-room might be used as a reading-room the greater part of the year; the library is only open from 10 to 3 in the winter months, and from 10 to 4 in the summer.

1035. Mr. *Brotherton.*] And not in the evening?—Not in the evening; and therefore to gentlemen in business in London it is of very little use.

1036. *Chairman.*] Do you think that if such a library could be opened in the evening, it would be more useful to people in business, and the working classes?—I think it might.

1037. You think, probably, that they would avail themselves of such institutions if they existed?—I think so.

1038. Sir *J. Walsh.*] Do you think from the description of books, that if any facilities were given to the working classes, they would be likely to avail themselves of the present library?—Yes.

1039. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Did the trustees purchase the modern books, or are they donations?—Part of them purchased, and part donations.

1040. What is the sum that you get?—£. 100 a year has been allowed since 1830.

1041. Mr. *Wyld.*] The books they purchase are principally on theological subjects, are they not?—The principal part bearing on theology.

1042. Has it ever been proposed to the trustees to open it in the evening?—No.

1043. Sir *H. Verney.*] Is the room warmed?—Yes.

1044. Mr. *Wyld.*] Have you any funds which might be applied to the purchase of books for the extension of the library?—No, we have difficulty in getting the money already allotted to us; when all the expenses are paid, the surplus is small.

1045. Sir *H. Verney.*] Do you think the people of the middling classes who live in that neighbourhood, would be more likely to attend in the evening?—So far as they are not able to attend in the course of the day; but whether ours would be the class of books that would suit them, I cannot say. It is the opinion of some, that if the library was removed to the neighbourhood of the London University, it would be of much more use than it is new.

1046. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Is the building as well as the books vested in the trustees?—Yes, I believe it is.

1047. Sir *H. Verney.*] And there is a power in the trustees to remove the locality, is there not?—I suppose they must have the Court of Chancery's consent. I forgot to mention that we have a second volume of the catalogue, which is devoted exclusively to tracts and sermons, many of which are very rare and curious, especially among the tracts. I should think there may be about 10,000 in the second volume.

1048. *Chairman.*] Making 30,000 altogether?—Yes, with the tracts.

1049. Have you some very curious works in the library?—Yes.

1050. On what subjects?—Old black-letter theological works; we have also a very fine copy of the first edition of Shakspeare, and some curious old Bibles and scarce puritanical tracts.

1051. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Have you any manuscripts?—Yes.

1052. *Chairman.*] Of what date are your puritanical tracts?—During the 16th century, principally.

1053. Sir *H. Verney.*] Do you mean the 16th or the 17th?—From 1620; that would be the 17th century.

1054. *Chairman.*] How many manuscripts have you?—They are not very numerous; about 200 or 300, I should think.

1055. Of an interesting description?—Yes, a great many of them connected with the early history of the Reformation; a great many of Baxter's and John Howe's.

1056. Have you a great many manuscript sermons?—Yes, a considerable number.

1057. Have you any foreign manuscripts?—No.

1058. What is the date of your principal manuscripts?—From an early period in 1500 to the present century.

1059. Sir *H. Verney.*] Do you mean by manuscript sermons, sermons in the handwriting of the persons who composed them, or do you mean notes taken down from the persons who preached them?—A good many of both.

Thomas Jones, Esq., B. A., called in; and Examined.

1060. *Chairman.*] TO what College do you belong?—Jesus College, Oxford.

1061. You are in the Church, are you not?—No, I am not in the Church.

1062. Are you a fellow of Jesus College?—I was a scholar, but not a fellow.

1063. You are the Librarian of Chetham Library, at Manchester?—Yes.

1064. What is the date of the foundation of that library?—1653.

1065. Whom was it founded by?—Humphrey Chetham, esq., a merchant at Manchester.

1066. What was the object of the founder?—It was designed for "scholars and others well affected."

1067. To what?—I should say for learning, and perhaps loyalty is included.

1068. Will you give the Committee the object of the founder in his own words as much as you can; are those all the words he uses?—Those are the only words.

1069. From what document do you cite them?—From his will.

1070. Does he go on to make any other conditions, limitations, or qualifications?—The only restriction is, that every reader write his address and other particulars in a book; that is not a restriction of the founder, but it is a regulation made by the governors.

1071. At what time was that regulation made?—I should say it must have been from the commencement.

1072. Then it has been the usage at this library to admit people simply on writing down their names and address?—Yes.

1073. Can you give the Committee the terms of the foundation; what is the document expressing the will of the founder on the subject; is it a charter, or a will, or what is it?—The library was founded by Humphrey Chetham, esq., in the reign of Charles the Second; the feoffees were incorporated by Royal charter in 1665.

1074. Who are the feoffees?—The gentlemen in the neighbourhood; Lord Stanley is one.

1075. How are they appointed?—By self-election.

1076. How many are there altogether?—About 24; at present there are only 21; I believe there are some vacancies.

1077. Then there is no condition on which they are admitted as trustees?—No,

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No, there is no condition except a residence in the neighbourhood within 12 miles.

1078. Did Humphrey Chetham leave any appointment of trustees himself?—Yes, he selected some of his own friends; and he gives preference, *ceteris paribus*, to those of his own blood.

1079. Are there any of his own blood now representing the trust?—There is Colonel Clowes, living near Manchester.

1080. The only trustees prescribed positively in the original foundation are the descendants of Humphrey Chetham, if I understand rightly?—The descendants of Humphrey Chetham would have the preference, *ceteris paribus*; but it is not unconditionally; the person must be fit.

1081. Then who elect those fit persons?—The governors themselves.

1082. By the governors, do you mean the trustees?—Yes.

1083. They are self-elected then?—Yes.

1084. And they must be resident within 12 miles?—Yes.

1085. Have there been any considerable donations made to the library?—The donations from the commencement have been comparatively few.

1086. Have there been any recent donations?—Within the last four years there has been a considerable accession, by donations, of between 500 and 600 volumes, and many of them of considerable value.

1087. Whom by?—The trustees of the British Museum presented all their publications which they were able to dispose of; also, most of the societies; all the societies I have applied to have contributed, with the exception of the Royal Society, the Geological Society, and the Linnæan. Their reason was, that they presented only to societies which published and presented to them.

1088. Did the British Museum give you duplicate books, or what?—Their own publications.

1089. What is the number of volumes in the library?—19,500.

1090. You have had 400 or 500 donations; within what time?—Four years.

1091. What is the character of the books in the library?—It is emphatically a library of folios; the managers have always given the preference to old books, and there are but few libraries of the same extent in the kingdom which have so large a number of works of the 16th century.

1092. On what subjects are they?—Theological principally; the richest department is theological; but it is not, like Dr. Williams's library, exclusively theological; there are other departments, as history, sciences, and arts.

1093. Of that period?—Yes.

1094. Your recent additions, I suppose, are on other subjects besides theology?—The donations are principally the Transactions of societies; but the books purchased are most of them recent publications, such as Hallam's works; when I came there, four years ago, I found the library was very poor in such works.

1095. What is the present state of the books?—£.250 have been laid out in binding them within the last three years, and still many of them are in a very bad state.

1096. In consequence of what are they in a bad state?—Old age.

1097. Is the room dry?—Now it is, because a large sum has been lately laid out on heating apparatus.

1098. What accommodation is there in the room; is it a large room?—The reading-room would contain from 20 to 30 people.

1099. Then the library is separate from the reading-room, is it?—It is.

1100. Mr. *Wyld.*] I understand that within the last three years you have been repairing and restoring the books, by an annual sum of money expended upon them?—Yes; there has been expended 250 *l.* within the last four years.

1101. Do you think it is intended to continue that?—I think the governors consider it their duty, before they buy new books, to repair the old ones; many of them are in a very bad state, and some hundred of pounds are required to put them in a good state.

1102. *Chairman.*] Out of what funds do the monies come for making those improvements in the library?—Out of the annual income of 534 *l.* 2 *s.* 6 *d.*, arising as follows: rents of Hammerton estates, consisting of three farms, 500 *l.*; dividend on 1,050 *l.*, 3 ¼ *l.* per cent. annuities, 34 *l.* 2 *s.* 6 *d.*

1103. Are those the funds left by Chetham's will?—Yes.

1104. What is the total?—£. 534. 2 *s.* 6 *d.*

1105. How is that expended?—Librarian's salary, 75 *l.*; his board and other collateral

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collateral expenses, 70 *l.*; steward's salary, 12 *l.* 10 *s.*; solicitor's salary, 4 *l.*; insurance of books, 13 *l.* 10 *s.* 10 *d.*

1106. What surplus remains?—Only an average surplus of 109 *l.* 12 *s.* 4 *d.* available for the repairs of the old and the purchase of new books, for the building in which the library is kept is old, as are also the farm-buildings upon the estate; the expenses of repairs have been exceedingly heavy during the last five years; the average of such expenses, including allowances to tenants, draining, and walling, and the cost of some additional heating apparatus in the library, has been 249 *l.*

1107. Leaving in the whole, how much?—£. 109.

1108. To be laid out in new books?—Yes.

1109. And the improvement of the library?—Yes.

1110. Are the funds at present in a satisfactory state?—It is to be hoped that in future we shall have from 150 *l.* to 200 *l.* to be laid out on books, according to the judgment of the trustees, whether on new books, or on the repairs of the old.

1111. Are there any new sources of revenue, which you have in prospect?—None.

1112. How far do the public make use of that library?—The average number of readers has been 25 a day.

1113. For how long?—Since I have been there, the last four years.

1114. Is the number of readers increasing, or diminishing?—I should say that it is likely to remain in *statu quo.*

1115. Of what class are the readers?—Mechanics, artists, architects, agents, clergymen, ministers, lawyers, writers, students, short-hand writers, teachers, civil engineers, farmers, gentlemen, tradesmen, apprentices, and others.

1116. Mr. *Wyld.*] During what hours do you keep your library open?—From nine to five in the summer, and from ten to four in the winter; it is never open after five.

1117. *Chairman.*] Has it ever been proposed to open it in the evening?—No.

1118. Do you think an evening library open to the working people would be of service to Manchester?—No doubt about it.

1119. Is such an institution much wanted?—I think it is.

1120. Could Chetham's Library be made available for such a purpose?—Not I think after five o'clock; the trustees are determined to close it as the British Museum is, with daylight.

1121. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Did you state the number of readers that the library can accommodate?—The reading-room would contain from 20 to 30.

1122. Is there any provision made in the library for reading there?—No, except as to one class, or perhaps two, where tracings from illustrated books are required.

1123. So that the average number of 25 occupy all the accommodation that the library affords?—There are seldom more than 12 at a time in the reading-room.

1124. Sir *J. Walsh.*] Have you many illustrated works?—A great many.

1125. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Is there a comfortable reading-room?—Very; it cannot be more so.

1126. Sir *J. Walsh.*] Has a reading-room been always attached to the library, or only lately?—I believe the library only was used at first, because the founder's will directs that the books should be chained, or otherwise fixed, and they were read in chains.

1127. Mr. *Hamilton.*] How do you account for a library in so large a place as Manchester, affording in its reading-room accommodation for between 20 and 30, having only 12 attending at one time?—You consider the number comparatively small?

1128. Yes.—The hours during which the library is open are very inconvenient to men in business, as well as to mechanics.

1129. *Chairman.*] If it could be done, you think it would be desirable that it should be open in the evening?—It would be certainly desirable, and it was till eight o'clock, I think, about five years ago.

1130. Why was it closed again at five?—There was a very large number of persons who petitioned that it should be kept open till seven or eight, I forget which, and one summer it was kept open, and so few came to avail themselves of the access that it was discontinued by the trustees.

1131. I presume that in the winter it would be most desirable to have a library open in a town like Manchester in the evening?—Yes, but then the injury done by gas to books is so very great that the trustees have determined never to admit gas-light.

1132. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Were any books lost?—No; I never heard that there were.

1133. There have been some books lost, I suppose?—Very few indeed, considering the number of years since the foundation. I have taken stock during the last three months, and we have ascertained that there have been but 150 lost from the establishment of the library to the present time, out of 19,500.

1134. Mr. *Wyld.*] You have stated that there are a great many illustrated books; were the class who consulted those works connected with the print works of Manchester, and with designing for manufactures?—Yes; but it is not so useful as it might be made to scholars in the School of Design.

1135. *Chairman.*] It might be made of further use?—Yes.

1136. In what way?—We might have such works as would be advantageous to the schools.

1137. Such works of ornamental design as are published on the Continent, and have been issued in this country by Government, in fact?—Yes.

1138. Are there no means of obviating the evils arising from the injury done to the books by gas?—No.

1139. Could not the gas be carried off in some way and the heat diminished; it is the heat, I suppose, that is the principal cause of injury, is it not?—Yes; the most valuable subscription library, or one of the most valuable, has suffered very much indeed from gas at Manchester, the Portico Library.

1140. Mr. *Bunbury.*] You ascribe the injury done by gas to the heat; are you of opinion that it is only that, or is it not supposed that the gas itself exercises a deleterious influence on the books?—Originally the books were damp, and then the heat from the gas has quite taken the covers from off the books.

1141. *Chairman.*] It is the heat, in fact?—Yes.

1142. Are there not modes of ventilation by which the objection as to the heat might be obviated?—The Portico Library is certainly very badly ventilated.

1143. Is Chetham's library a lending library?—It is not.

1144. The books have never been lent out, have they?—Yes; the rule has been neglected.

1145. What is the rule?—The founder's own rule was, that the books should be chained, or otherwise fixed, for the better preservation thereof.

1146. Therefore there is no power of making it a lending library?—None whatever; the trustees themselves are not empowered to take books for their own use.

1147. Is Chetham's library the only public library in Manchester?—The only one.

1148. Do you know what was the population of Manchester at the time Chetham's library was founded?—12,000.

1149. What is the present population of Manchester and its neighbourhood?—About 70,000 in Manchester alone; then there are a good many large towns in the neighbourhood.

1150. You do not mean to say that the population of Manchester is only 70,000?—240,000; taking Manchester and Salford both together.

1151. Are not the people who inhabit Manchester now, in your opinion, far more capable of reading, and appreciating the advantages of reading, than when there were only 12,000, the number at the time of the foundation of the library?—I should say they are. There were in those days more real scholars than now; but of course the majority are far better educated than they were then.

1152. And therefore it would seem that they require a greater proportion of libraries?—Yes.

1153. Mr. *Brotherton.*] What amount was left to be appropriated to the library per annum; for the library alone?—The whole sum is about 540 *l.* a year.

1154. And how much of that 540 *l.* is laid out in books?—I hope we shall have, in future, from 150 *l.* to 200 *l.* a year.

1155. How long ago is it since that 150 *l.* was first applied to the purchase of books?—I have been at Manchester only four years, so that I cannot say what they used to lay out; but during my time very little has been laid out, in consequence of this heavy expense in repairs of buildings, heating the room, the improvement of ventilation, repairs on the farms, from whence the revenue is derived, and a lawsuit; we have had very little indeed to lay out in books.

1156. What lawsuit was that?—The tithe commutation.

1157. Sir *H. Verney.*] What is your opinion as to how the library ought to be rendered more available for the inhabitants of Manchester?—The funds are insufficient to complete the purchase of the sort of books which have been already attended to, and much less are they equal to purchasing modern publications.

1158. It appears that the library is not much frequented at present. What means could be devised for rendering it more available for the inhabitants; would they be by opening it in the evening, or by purchasing a different class of books, or any other inducement?—I think certainly that our books are not such as are suitable to the uneducated; there are but few elementary works. The managers have always considered it not as a library for the poor, but for scholars, agreeably to the founder's will; if we had more money we might purchase such works as would really be useful to the uneducated who wished to improve themselves.

1159. But the funds that you have already might be applied to the purchase of works of a more popular nature; modern histories, and works which would prove more attractive to the middle classes of Manchester?—Yes.

1160. Would the trustees object to that?—I think decidedly not; I represented to them when I came there, that there were some useful books very much wanted, and they consented to purchase them.

1161. For instance, have you got Arnold's histories?—Yes, I bought that.

1162. Any foreign books?—Yes; you mean recently published?

1163. Yes.—Yes: we have the large collections which are now publishing.

1164. Have you published anything yourselves?—No.

1165. *Chairman.*] Did the Charity Commissioners make any report on Chetham's library?—Yes, they did; and a mistake has arisen from their report, that the money has been misdirected. If they had properly examined the documents which were laid before them, they would not have misrepresented it.

1166. On what did they report?—The misappropriation of the money.

1167. Sir *J. Walsh.*] Have you observed that the mechanics and operatives who form a portion of the readers, constitute a considerable portion of the readers at present?—Yes, decidedly; before I came here, I drew out a list; the library has been closed for three months, in order that I might take stock of the books, and during the last fortnight it has been again open, and there were 46 warehousemen, and about 53 clerks.

1168. Have you had occasion to observe whether they were the same parties, apparently pursuing the same course of reading, or whether they were chance persons dropping in in a desultory manner?—I am afraid there are too many people who come merely to amuse themselves; they ask for the Edinburgh Review, the Quarterly Review, or the Gentleman's Magazine.

1169. Mr. *Wyld.*] You stated that several people connected with the print works visited your library to look at the illustrated works?—Yes.

1170. Will you state what class of illustrated works you have in your library?—The Linnæan Society's Transactions, for instance.

1171. Any anatomical works?—Yes.

1172. *Chairman.*] You think a library connected with design would be a very useful thing in Manchester?—Very much so indeed.

1173. Mr. *Wyld.*] Have you heard any complaints from parties who are in the habit of consulting your illustrated works, that the library was closed in the evening?—I think those who would make a proper use of the library amongst that class would be allowed by the masters to come to the library, and I know that they have been allowed by the masters to come at such hours as the library is open.

1174. I think you before stated, that no one is permitted to come to the library after five o'clock?—No; but they mostly allow those persons who are capable of designing to come to the library, even at a time that they would not otherwise come.

1175. You use the term, "a proper use of the library;" what do you conceive to be a proper use of the library?—I have said just now that there are a good many

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many people who come merely to amuse themselves, to read the Gentleman's Magazine, the Quarterly Review, and Edinburgh Review.

1176. Then you conceive that the proper use of this library is for the purposes of students and persons pursuing some kind of literature as a pursuit?—Exactly.

1177. Do you conceive that the two applications and uses of the library would be compatible with each other; that persons of a literary character and students might use it, and that at the same time it might be used by the working classes?—I see no incompatibility at all, and as far as the funds enable us we have endeavoured to make it useful to all parties.

1178. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Have large additions been made to the library by purchase since the foundation?—Almost entirely; very few donations have been made till recently.

1179. Have the additions been large by purchase?—The founder left no books at all; he left only money.

1180. Have you any idea of the amount that has been spent annually on the average?—I made a calculation the other day, that there must have been 100 volumes added yearly; but I have not taken pains in calculating the sum annually laid out; perhaps 100 *l.* a year.

1181. Out of 500 *l.*?—Yes.

1182. Mr. *Wyld.*] How much of that 100 *l.* has been expended on works of design?—There are some most costly works of design there: Audubon's Birds, and Gould's Birds.

1183. What class of books are they?—Botanical works, and zoological.

1184. *Chairman.*] Have you any small room in the library which could be available for more extensive reading?—There is a very long gallery immediately adjoining the library, which might be used as well for a reading-room as a library containing the books.

1185. To what purpose is it devoted?—It is now unoccupied.

1186. Then that might be made available for the benefit of the people of Manchester?—Yes.

1187. How many would that long room hold?—I should say 50.

1188. Might not that room be lighted with gas, and ventilated in such a way as to be a good reading-room, the books being kept in the library, and that being used as the reading-room?—Certainly.

1189. The only sources for reading which the working classes of Manchester have at present are from the mechanics' institutions and similar institutions?—Yes.

1190-91. Do you think there would be an inclination in the working classes of the people of Manchester, if a public library was freely opened, and was made a lending library under proper conditions, to avail themselves of such an institution?—Undoubtedly; our library however is badly situated; it is not central at all.

1192. You think that a central library, in a good situation in Manchester, open as I have stated, and with the advantages of being a lending library, would be of utility to the people?—Undoubtedly.

1193. And would be valued by them?—Yes, no doubt of it.

1194. Sir *J. Walsh.*] Do you consider that they would avail themselves of those opportunities to read any but the more light and popular works?—I think the poor at present have no opportunity of reading such works as they might be improved by. The management of those mechanics' institutions is in the hands of a party who buy amusing books, and those who are really disposed to improve themselves have no voice; whereas in such a library as you contemplate the well-disposed would have the opportunity of reading, gratis, good works.

1195. *Chairman.*] Of course such a library as has been suggested would be a library with a reading-room, open in the evening, for the benefit of the working classes?—Yes.

1196. Sir *J. Walsh.*] Do not you consider that the benefit which the working classes would derive from those libraries would depend upon the nature of the books, and their being of a more solid kind than are generally found in the present mechanics' institutions?—Yes.

1197. Mr. *Bunbury.*] You mentioned that you had got a few foreign works; are they in foreign languages?—Yes.

1198. Have you had occasion to remark whether readers apply for those books?—Yes; the memoirs, for instance, of societies.

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1199. Are you able to state whether any of the mechanics and artisans are capable of reading the books in foreign languages?—A great many; you see a person with a shabby coat on asking for such works.

1200. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Have you had many opportunities of examining the works in those mechanics' institutes and libraries?—I went for that purpose a few months ago, and I was quite vexed at seeing so many works of light literature amongst the recent accessions; instead of imparting knowledge to the people, they can only give the lightest literature of the day.

1201. *Chairman.*] Must not there be many working men of a superior class in Manchester, whose pursuits must lead them to the study of branches of science and art, from their connexion with machinery, and also from their connexion with designs for manufactures?—Yes.

1202. Sir *H. Verney.*] What class of books do you refer to as being not beneficial, but rather mischievous?—I do not mean to say they are mischievous, but not very useful; light novels of every description, however bad.

1203. Mr. *Hamilton.*] The same class of books which abound in circulating libraries?—Yes.

1204. Mr. *Wyld.*] I believe you have in your hand an analysis of the readers attending the library?—I have, during the last fortnight (*handing in the same*).

1205. Is there any other library in Lancashire which is open to the public?—There is one in Preston, called Doctor Sheppard's Library, which is open to the public.

1206. Have you any other information which you wish to offer to the Committee?—No, I believe not.

Jovis, 3° *die Maii*, 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Brotherton.
Lord Ebrington.
Mr. Kershaw.
Sir Harry Verney.
Mr. Disraeli.
Mr. Charteris.
Mr. Hamilton.
Mr. Thicknesse.
Mr. Wyld.
Mr. Ewart.

WILLIAM EWART, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

George Dawson, Esq., M.A., called in; and Examined.

G. Dawson, Esq. M.A.

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1207. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are very well acquainted with the manufacturing districts of this country?—I am.

1208. And the course of your pursuits as a lecturer has led you very much to understand the wants and feelings of the working class of this country?—Yes.

1209. You are familiar with all our manufacturing towns, are you not?—All of them.

1210. Both in England and Scotland?—Yes, in England and in Scotland.

1211. Has your attention been directed at all to the want of libraries in those towns accessible to the public?—Yes; I have gathered together the catalogues of all the libraries in the midland counties, with which I am well acquainted, for the purpose of preparing a report for the Association of Mechanics' Institutions.

1212. What has been the result of your observation?—There are no free libraries, excepting about three or four. The chief libraries for operatives are those of the Mechanics' institutions, and they are small. Many of the books are gift books, turned out of people's shelves, and are never used, and old magazines of different kinds, so that, out of 1,000 volumes, perhaps there may be only 400 or 500 useful ones. The rest are, many of them, only annual registers and old religious magazines that are never taken down from the shelves.

1213. Of course, the only persons admitted to use those books are the members of those mechanics' institutions themselves?—They are generally subscribers to the whole of the privileges of the institution. Some of those institutions let parties subscribe to the libraries alone; but, generally speaking, they must subscribe to the whole of the privileges of the institution before they can get at the library.

1214. There is a free library at Manchester, is there not?—Yes, an old one; Chetham's Library.

1215. You know of no other but Chetham's among the provincial libraries, which is quite accessible to the public?—There is the old town library of Leicester, which an order from a member of the town council admits you to. But that consists almost wholly of controversial divinity; and unless it may be that some clergyman comes and looks in occasionally, the greater part of the books are scarcely ever touched. The Old Town Library, it is called.

1216. Do you think there is any willingness on the part of the working classes to avail themselves of libraries, if they had free access to them?—Yes; in Nottingham they have an operative and artisans' library. The artisans' library is held in a room in one of the public buildings, and the subscription is small; but they refused to admit theological or political works, and many working men have withdrawn from it, and formed a new library, and the books are kept in public-houses, and there they go, and pay a small subscription, and perhaps take a glass of ale, and read.

1217. Can you give the Committee an idea of the character of those books?—They are mostly novels, or at least a large portion of them are novels; still there are a great many political works.

1218. Is there a willingness on the part of the working classes to study works that are rather of a deeper character than those, if they had the power of doing so?—Yes; we find that in regard to novels, which form the majority of books taken out, the proportion is diminishing, and the proportion of historical and philosophical works is increasing. The novels, in some libraries, are in the minority.

1219. Are you aware whether the publications of the different publishers who have issued a large amount of superior works for the reading of the people, has tended of late years to a deeper style of reading than formerly?—Much more so.

1220. Could you mention any of the works of that character which are most in request?—All Bohn's series are very much read. They are historical works mostly; but the great defect in some of the mechanics' institutions is, that by their rules many of them do not admit political works or theological works into their libraries; some make no exception, and admit every kind of work, but many are fettered by those rules which admit of neither political nor theological works; consequently the working men do not trouble them much.

1221. How are those libraries managed?—By a committee of the institution.

1222. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Do you suppose that the working classes prefer political and theological works?—The working classes prefer historical and political works; they do not trouble theological works much.

1223. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Are historical works much read by that class of the people?—Not unless they are political.

1224. Mr. *Hamilton.*] With regard to works on the arts and sciences, do you suppose the operatives would prefer reading them?—There is not so great a demand for those books as for historical books.

1225. Mr. *Charteris.*] There is not so great a demand for scientific works in connexion with the various professions and trades?—The demand for books in relation to the different trades is limited, as compared with that for historical books and political books.

1226. Mr. *Wyld.*] You are speaking of places where the operations carried on are mechanical?—Yes, of such places as Birmingham and Manchester.

1227. Where mostly there are many trades connected with the arts of design?—Yes.

1228. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Do they not admit newspapers in the institution at Manchester?—Yes, and so they do almost in every institution; but that is done by admitting them to the news-room, as it is called, and that is regarded as a separate department.

1229. Do they not admit works of party politics?—In Manchester they do; they admit everything to the mechanics' institutions, but in Nottingham the operative library was founded because of the exclusion. I have a note of what a working man said about that; he said that he and nine other subscribers to the artisan's library seceded from it because they could not get such books on political and religious subjects as they wished to read. They "clubbed" together and bought Howitt's History of Priestcraft, and that was the beginning of operative libraries in Nottingham.

1230. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Can you state whether in Manchester the same preference exists for theological and political works, as distinguished from scientific or mechanical works?—Not in an equal degree; but still the greater demand is for historical and political works. There is one curious point I might notice, which is as to the proportion of issues to the number of volumes. It was found in the midland counties generally that there were six issues to one volume.

1231. Mr. *Wyld.*] As to the libraries in Birmingham, what are they?—They are all subscription libraries; there are Instruction Society Libraries, which are small, and the Polytechnic Institution Library is small, and the issues are about in the same proportion, six times the number of volumes; then if you subtract the number of volumes which never leave the shelves, you will find from that, each volume goes out nine or ten times in the course of the year. At the Leicester Library there are about 3,000 volumes and 13,000 issues; then if you subtract from that the books that never go out, some 2,500 books have 13,000 or 14,000 times to go out.

1232. Viscount *Ebrington.*] In speaking of the absence of historical and political books from those libraries, you would hardly apply that to standard histories of the country, but to more recent works?—Yes.

1233. Are you aware whether the older historical writings are becoming more known, that is, the standard historical works as distinguished from more recent works, bearing more upon present politics; do you know whether those are circulated much?—Very much; for instance, Froissart's Chronicles is a work in great demand and very popular; and latterly the republication of the old Saxon Chronicles.

1234. *Chairman.*] Have such books as Coxe's Revolutions of Europe an extensive circulation?—Yes, and the translations from the French political histories have been much read.

1235. Do you think it would be desirable to have libraries containing books of every kind, so that people could take their choice?—Yes; there should be no restriction except a moral one, that is, excluding books of an immoral character.

1236. So that you would neither have political history excluded, nor have libraries restricted as to the subject of politics, but you would have a general library, where the reader might choose what suited his literary appetite?—Yes; in the best libraries there is no restriction.

1237. Do you feel convinced that if there were such libraries on an extensive scale they would be properly availed of by the people?—Yes, I am sure of that, because wherever they can get the means of having a library they take advantage of it; for instance, the Odd Fellows have founded libraries in many towns, and some of the benefit societies have a library; at Birmingham the present cheap subscription-room is so full at night that it is quite inconvenient, and they will have to increase their accommodation; that is the case only where the subscription is reduced to the minimum; in Liverpool there is a mechanics' institution where they pay a penny a week to the newspaper room, and a penny a week to the library and lectures; they never take any subscription above a penny; they take none in advance, and they have a great number of working men.

1238. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Does the observation you have made with regard to the class of books extend to those other libraries also?—Yes.

1239. Are you acquainted with the public libraries in Scotland?—Not so well as with those in England. I have looked at the catalogues.

1240. Viscount *Ebrington.*] Are there books of travels, and accounts of foreign countries in those libraries you have spoken of?—Yes; I have also observed among the working men a great spread of knowledge of French and German. And almost all English libraries are very deficient in modern foreign books. In the great library in Birmingham there are not a score of modern German books, and not more than 100 modern French books in French.

1241. Mr. *Hamilton.* Do you know anything of the London mechanics' libraries?—The literary institutions of London are little frequented by mechanics; they belong to the middle class almost exclusively.

1242. Are you able to state how the lower classes in London are supplied with literature?—By accident altogether. It is a scramble in London; whoever can get a penny buys a book. There is no provision in London in that respect for any poor person. The libraries in London, and throughout the country indeed, are closed at the only hours the working men can use them. The British Museum Library shuts at four, the Chetham Library shuts at four; they are closed at that hour because there shall not be fire or light in them. They are utterly

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utterly useless to the working classes, who cannot take the books home. For them, in fact, libraries are not extant.

1243. *Chairman.*] If I understand you rightly, they do use the books which they buy themselves in the evenings?—Yes.

1244. Therefore in that case they run the risk of fire?—Yes; and in every case where the working men can form a society, they go and read there for hours of an evening.

1245. You think it desirable, and indeed almost indispensable, that libraries should be opened in the evening, in order to be made available to the working classes?—Yes; it is the only hope for them, the libraries being open at night.

1246. And you think that, so opened, those libraries would be of great utility?—They would be very much used.

1247. As you have pursued your literary career in a number of the principal towns in this country, can you state whether or not it would be a great advantage to a literary man, even where connected with mere ephemeral literature, like that of a newspaper, to be able to avail himself of a library for the purpose of consultation?—Yes. In country towns he is obliged to make a list of points he wishes to elucidate, and if he is poor he waits till he comes to town, and then he goes to the Museum; and if he is better off, he comes up on purpose to settle those questions. I know a case of a person who came up in that way.

1248. Sir *H. Verney.*] Where from?—From Leicester; but from not having made proper inquiry, when he got to London he found the Museum shut. That necessarily creates very great delay. There are many books which it is very necessary to refer to, which you cannot get in the country at all.

1249. *Chairman.*] You are speaking now of such books as ought to be attainable in all large towns?—Yes; and without some of them a man could not carry on a newspaper for six months. Supposing, for instance, he wanted to write an article on the Hungarian struggle, the chances are he could not get any thoroughly good work on Hungarian history or public documents connected with that country in Birmingham. Then he must come to London and run the chance of getting them even there.

1250. Therefore those public libraries are not only desirable to the working classes, but to the instructors of those working classes, as the men who contribute to the periodical literature and the newspapers of the country?—Yes.

1251. You are aware the schools of design have been much multiplied in this country?—Yes.

1252. Would not it be desirable that manufacturers, whose business is connected with design, should have ready access to such books as are connected with that design which belongs to their particular department?—Yes. In Birmingham everything depends upon design now, and the manufacturers purchase works and lend them to students in the painting rooms. I know the shifts the students are put to, because they come and borrow works of any man who has them; they will come to my house and get leave to sit an hour and copy them; therefore I know the great suffering the students go through to get them.

1253. Have you known instances of self-denial on the part of pupils to get books?—Yes. I have known men rise at five and work till eight for book-money, and then go to their day's work.

1254. In what towns have you known that?—In Birmingham.

1255. Have you ever been on the Continent?—Yes.

1256. Has your attention been called to the question of whether greater facilities are possessed in this country or on the Continent for procuring books?—In Paris, and some of the great German towns, I have found that books are very much better supplied, and that as a whole the libraries have more attention given to them as regards each department, and that the access to the libraries is much more ready.

1257. Is not the access in fact quite unrestricted?—Yes, the access is quite unrestricted.

1258. You would say that foreigners never meet with the least difficulty in getting any book?—No.

1259. Though unintroduced?—No; the passport is a sufficient guarantee; you have merely to produce it.

1260. Would a foreigner in England find an equal facility in getting books?—No; there is no library in England to which he could get access.

1261. Except the Chetham Library?—There he would have more facility, but he

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he could not take a book away; and then that library consists very much of old dry books that nobody reads now, not even a professional man. They have agreed to buy modern books of late, and they spend a few pounds a year, but I fear much of their money is wasted.

1262. You know that many of the libraries on the Continent are lending libraries, so that a person can take a book out of the library when required?—Yes; but I believe there is no case of that kind in England, except in the case of the subscription libraries.

1263. Do you think, looking at certain sets of books which could be easily purchased, it would be very desirable for the sake of literary men, and also of the working classes in England, to have libraries on the lending principle?—Yes; the only thing is that you would run the risk of losing books.

1264. But do you not think the risk would be worth running, for the sake of the good it would do?—Yes; a great deal of reading is not done, but might be done, because the men cannot get the books away; it is often inconvenient to sit in a public room to read.

1265. What is the result of your observation with regard to any improvement generally in the character of the working classes, in a moral and also in a literary point of view?—I think the improvement in that respect has been very great of late years.

1266. Will you be so good as to state to the Committee your views upon the subject, so far as you feel you have scope for?—I find that the increase of reading is very marked indeed; there is a decrease, I think, of that turbulent spirit which I consider to be owing to ignorance; I have always found that when the people read most they are the least open to be played upon by mere appeals to feelings. Of late years the increase in newspaper reading has been very great indeed, and I think that has had a very good effect.

1267. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Is there, do you think, an increasing taste for more useful and cheaply published works?—Certainly; those works that are now published at 1 *s.* a volume would not have had a sale at all some years ago. We now find good historical books published for about 3 *s.* 9 *d.* and 3 *s.* 6 *d.* a volume, and which have been of great general advantage, for we find that the worst kind of reading keeps sinking to a lower stage. There is a great deal of trash published in the shape of cheap tales of horror, which is read mostly by the younger and lower class of readers; but after they have learned to read and write well they rise by degrees in the character of the books they read, and the trash sinks down to the lowest readers generally. Some of the most intelligent and best-read men in Birmingham are working men; I could produce five or six working men whom I should be happy to have examined against almost any of the middle classes in the place. They are men who have wrestled it out.

1268. Is that on general subjects?—Yes.

1269. Comprising to a great extent scientific matters?—Yes.

1270. And history?—Yes, history and politics.

1271. And literature generally?—Yes, and some of them have taught themselves German and French.

1272. *Chairman.*] Have there not been some cheap publications latterly of a very valuable character?—A great number of publications connected with various institutions.

1273. Would you say that the habits of the people had improved in the last ten or twenty years, particularly with respect to temperance?—Yes.

1274. Does not that naturally lead to more refined pursuits?—Yes.

1275. And more extensive habits of reading than formerly?—Yes, and the character of the amusements is changed. Bull-baiting and dog-fighting in Birmingham and the neighbourhood were the public favourite sports; now the bull-baiting has gone altogether, and although the dog-fighting does exist, it is only amongst the most ignorant of the people.

1276. Viscount *Ebrington.*] And you think that the improved taste of the people themselves has had as much to do with the discontinuance of those sports as any interference by the authorities?—Yes, they have died out; they have not been put down; all those things have died out; there has been a change in the source and current of the thoughts of the people.

1277. Mr. *Wyld.*] Is there any library in Birmingham connected with works of design?—The School of Design is forming one; in some of the libraries there are many good works, but they are scattered.

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1278. Are they accessible to the working classes?—No; they have to pay 20*s.* or 30*s.* subscription to some of the libraries.

1279. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Is there a library of that kind at Manchester?—There are very good ones in Manchester; but then, if you cannot muster the subscription, it is useless.

1280. Mr. *Wyld.*] You have spoken of small libraries, to which a penny subscription is paid; do those libraries take in works of design?—Very rarely; but the publication of pictures, and wood cutting, and cheap magazines, has done very much. Any one knowing the Birmingham manufactures will see the great improvement that has taken place in the drawing of the artisans since those cheap periodicals have come out; such as the People's Journal. The cuts are sometimes rude, but still they are from the great masters.

1281. Do you know anything of the School of Design at Birmingham?—Yes.

1282. Have they a collection of books?—They are making one, but it is small at present; it is not an old institution.

1283. Two or three years old?—Five or six years old.

1284. Is it much frequented by working men?—Yes; young men becoming students for the glass, papier-maché, and other trades; those manufacturers having one or two drawing-rooms, and there will be 20 or 30 young men painting sometimes in them; and these manufacturers keep a supply of students at the school.

1285. Is it possible to trace any advance in regard to that principally since that school was established?—Yes; you have only to go into some of the show-rooms and look at the back shelves, and see the patterns which were in vogue a few years ago to convince yourself of that.

1286. Then do you think the establishment of a public library would be of benefit in that respect generally?—Yes.

1287. *Chairman.*] Would you say that any library professing to be a public one, should contain among its various literary riches collections of works of design as a matter of course?—Yes.

1288. As well as of every other branch of literature?—Yes; it is the only chance they have; speaking, for instance, of Birmingham, the materials have always been good, but the forms have been formerly rough and coarse; the continental manufacturers have always excelled them in that.

1289. Viscount *Ebrington.*] And the same applies to Manchester?—Yes.

1290. Have you found that works on the principles of art have been much read or inquired for?—Yes, in towns where design is used. In Coventry, for example, where ribbon making is much carried on, it is of great importance. There is more design in Birmingham than in any town in the country. Every work that is done in this country in metal is done there. Then the glass trade has also risen into much importance.

1291. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Do you know the district of the Potteries at all?—The Potteries, I believe, are not very well supplied.

1292. Viscount *Ebrington.*] Are works of natural history much sought after?—Not so much as one would wish, except in Manchester, and there there is a local peculiarity in existence. In Manchester there is a large class of operative naturalists and a curious set of botanists. I have heard of a case of a curator to one of the natural history societies who had to go to Chetham Library to look at Audubon's book. There is another thing which I would remark upon, which is that the second-hand book system, I think, does not exist on the Continent to the extent that it does with us. We have great facilities of getting books by that system in our large towns. There are four or five shops in Birmingham doing a large trade in second-hand books.

1293. *Chairman.*] As you have travelled much in the provinces, do you not think it might be of great advantage to have collections in the different provincial towns on topographical subjects connected with the nature of the country, its geology, for instance, and its past history, and everything that concerns the local character of the neighbourhood?—Yes; they should be complete, I think.

1294. And would not that give an interest in the eyes of the people in the district, to the literature connected with their own country?—It would, and sometimes it would be really to their material advantage. I remember a case in a town of England of people being taken in to a great extent by the pretended discovery of a coal-pit, where any one who knew the geology of the county would be aware that

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that there could not be any coal. A company was formed and a great many shares were issued. Some pieces of black were brought up, which no doubt had been put in the night before, and they were carried into the town in triumph.

1295. Are there museums in many of our towns?—No, not many; there are small museums, but they often consist of two or three cases of stuffed birds, an Indian canoe, and two or three matters of that kind, but there is little scientific arrangement; you could not study by them.

1296. Not being connected with the local character of the country, either geological or historical?—There are such collections belonging to some of the philosophical institutions; at Birmingham we have a good geological series, and at Newcastle there is a fine museum.

1297. Are you aware that an Act passed a few years ago to enable town councils to create museums?—Yes. I do not think it is much used. I think it would be more so, but some of the local governors of towns have ridiculed it.

1298. Viscount *Ebrington.*] As you do not think that it has been very generally acted upon, do you know whether it has ever been much mooted in towns?—In one town I was at, I remember it was made fun of, and was called the Beetle-rate.

1299. Are you aware whether the corporation of Leicester have lately made, or are making a museum under that Act?—Yes; and the Manchester town council are forming a library.

1300. Are you aware that at Warrington they have established a museum, and have so far gone beyond that Act as to connect the library with the museum?—Yes, I heard so lately.

1301. Mr. *Kershaw.*] What kind of library is it the town council of Manchester has formed?—A general library; they began merely with historical works.

1302. What means would you recommend for the purpose of promoting the object of public libraries; how would you raise the funds?—There would be a difficulty, whether done singly or by rate. In any town, if the nucleus of a library were formed, I think very great additions would be made by gift.

1303. Do you think the inhabitants of large towns would be willing that a small rate should be levied for the purpose of creating public libraries?—I am sceptical. Some towns might; but there is a party in every town who raise the cry of economy; they go into the town council upon that cry, and they would, I am afraid, oppose it.

1304. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Have you seen the Museum of Natural History at Manchester?—Yes.

1305. Are you aware that the proprietors are willing to make a present of that museum to the town council, if they will only raise a building for it?—No; I was not aware of that. Their library is, I believe, contained in one small book-case, and the Royal Institution of Manchester has no library at all.

1306. If there was a building erected, and a good library established and connected with the Museum of Natural History, would not it be very attractive to people in general?—I think so, because of late years in some places popular lectures have been given in botany, and excursions made sometimes by working men; they go out, six or seven together, with a teacher, and take a day's ramble in the summer for botanical or entomological purposes, and books on those subjects would be of great use to them.

1307. You would consider that a good means of elevating the character of the labouring classes, and improving their social condition?—Yes.

1308. *Chairman.*] Do you not think that the establishment of libraries would be a very desirable supplement to any system of local or national education given to the working classes?—I think the one must be a corollary from the other. The fact is, we give the people in this country an appetite to read, and supply them with nothing. For the last many years in England everybody has been educating the people, but they have forgotten to find them any books. In plain language, you have made them hungry, but you have given them nothing to eat; it is almost a misfortune to a man to have a great taste for reading, and not to have the power of satisfying it.

1309. Is not the most valuable part of an artisan's education, the education he gives himself?—Yes; the education a free society gives him. Still you tell him it is a great advantage to read, and you supply him with nothing.

1310. Viscount *Ebrington.*] And what is put within his reach now is often as likely to be bad as good?—Yes; the penny stamp upon newspapers makes the cost of a good thing dear, and adds facility to the cheap people to circulate trash to an extent which is almost incredible; the rubbish issued every Saturday is very great indeed.

1311. Sir *H. Verney.*] Are you acquainted with the rural districts?—I know many of the villages of the midland counties, such as Derbyshire, Leicestershire, and Warwickshire.

1312. *Chairman.*] Have you ever attended to the formation of parochial or village libraries in the rural districts?—In the midland districts occasionally. They are forming them now in almost every large village in Derbyshire and that neighbourhood.

1313. Can you give any information of the nature of the books comprising those libraries?—It is done in much the same way as they form the mechanics' institutions; they begin with a simple library; they begin to get together about 200 books; about 150 there are in some of the libraries in some of the villages in Derbyshire.

1314. You are now speaking of the rural districts?—Yes; those are rural, but they are under the influence of men connected with the towns very much.

1315. Mr. *Wyld.*] The clergymen of the Established Church have taken great interest, have they not, in the forming of those libraries?—Yes; but the libraries they form are not popular with some of the people, because they are very often exclusive. When I say they are "exclusive," I mean that they are worked under the patronage of this or that society, and the fact is, they are often too theological for the people.

1316. *Chairman.*] Do you think it desirable for any library, whether for rural or for manufacturing districts, that the basis of the library should be the best books?—The very best books.

1317. I mean the highest quality of literature the country possesses?—Yes, the very best. I think the religious bodies are quite able to take care of the supply of that kind of book. The mistake is that they put so many of them into village libraries, because each church or each chapel has plenty of means of supplying those people with religious books without filling up the general library of the village with them. I think in village libraries that has been the fault, that too many of those books have been put in which have belonged to the church or the chapel: they are not wanted, or if they are, the church or the chapel have the means of supplying them.

1318. Mr. *Charteris.*] You spoke just now of books upon political history being much inquired after by the operative classes?—Yes.

1319. Is there much disposition evinced by that class of people to study political questions; that is, to weigh well both sides of the question, and to form opinions accordingly?—There is a growing disposition of that kind. A society of young men has been formed in Birmingham to thoroughly investigate the principles of political questions; and the Chartist body in Manchester has taken to issuing tracts as a new method of agitation, and those numbers which I have seen are of a deeper kind than have heretofore been issued, and there is an absence in them of the epithets and adjectives which too often form the staple of political writing. There is a disposition to study politics now, instead of merely to talk about them.

1320. Do you think that both sides of the political questions which are mooted are brought fairly before them?—Much more so than was the case. Debating societies are getting very common now, and in them I do think the two sides are generally stated equally and fairly.

1321. Viscount *Ebrington.*] With regard to those debating societies, do you think that men entertaining opposite opinions state their views candidly and fairly?—Yes; of course now and then a man may get up a case merely for the sake of debate.

1322. A debating society is not a society consisting of men entertaining the same opinions; when a certain proposition is started, are certain men selected to propose and to defend it?—Yes; and honestly. The men really do differ.

1323. *Chairman.*] And is it your opinion that those societies must fail of their end if the means for forming opinions are not supplied to the people?—They become mischievous without a good deal of reading at the bottom.

1324. Mr. *Charteris.*] People are apt to form their opinions, are they not, from the newspapers they take?—Yes.

1325. Do they take in those which write on each side?—Yes.

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1326. Is that the case with those mechanics' institutions?—Yes. I do not know one in which there is not the leading paper on each side taken in.

1327. Is that the case with those smaller societies which are formed at the different public-houses?—Very often. I find that where their means will admit of it they never allow themselves to be confined to their own side; and the same with the country associations; they take Blackwood, Tait, and so on.

1328. And the Edinburgh and the Quarterly?—Yes; the Edinburgh and the Quarterly. It is rarely that you see the one without the other anywhere; very rarely.

1329. Are those libraries that they form for themselves at the different public-houses lending libraries; do they give the books out?—Sometimes, but not always; sometimes they go there and read; of course it is to the interest of the publican that they should read there.

1330. Speaking generally of the libraries formed for the working classes, are they lending libraries, whether small societies or mechanics' institutions?—All the mechanics' institutions are lending libraries throughout the country.

1331. I suppose instances of the loss of books do not occur frequently?—Not very frequently; the greatest loss is the wearing out; the books get so abominably dirty that they have to be renewed; there is generally a certain amount of subscriptions set aside for purchasing books, so that a constant addition is going on.

1332. You know of no instance of any of those libraries that have been lending libraries ceasing to be so in consequence of the books being stolen?—I never knew of a case.

1333. *Chairman.*] Do you know that by a statute of the Scotch Parliament, which dates as far back as 1696, there is a system of parochial education in Scotland?—Yes.

1334. Do you not think for a country like Scotland, where the people have been better instructed for a series of years than any country in Europe, that it would be desirable that we should be prepared to add libraries as a means of carrying further the advantages they receive?—Yes; I think you have only done half your work without the addition of libraries.

1335. Have you ever turned your attention to the, in one sense, more material part of the question, such as the paper duty and the advertisement duty as they affect the circulation of books?—I have looked into that matter as to newspapers and to books, and I have come to the opinion that there ought to be no restrictions of any kind upon the subject; they are a premium to rubbish; it is so in newspapers.

1336. The paper duty?—Yes; it is a great hindrance.

1337. And the advertisement duty?—The advertisement duty is, I consider, a serious mischief by its being alike for all kinds of advertisements; in fact, it is a bad duty. It is too high at any time, but the smallest advertisement put in by the poorest person pays the same as the advertisement of a rich company which takes up five or six columns.

1338. On this particular subject it acts as a restriction upon the circulation of books?—Yes.

1339. That is, upon the publication and knowledge of the existence of books?—Yes.

1340. Have you been in America?—No, I have not.

1341. Mr. *Wyld.*] In about what proportion in towns are the reading proportion as compared with the other part?—The only way to find that out is by the issue of the books.

1342. Cannot you give a rough estimate; for instance, take Birmingham?—It is very difficult to tell, because the number of little libraries is so immense. There are libraries connected with the church and other institutions in the different parishes, and almost every chapel has some kind of library connected with it; it would not be easy to get at the numbers without a minute statement. There are some families now beginning to put libraries in their kitchens; that is a new sign of these later times; it is a thing which very few men think about, but it is what they ought to do. I have noticed of late that in several houses they have put up a shelf or two in the kitchen; it is to be feared that the mechanics and others who live under the roof of their employers are too much forgotten and neglected. Of course the quantity of people who cannot read and write in this country is a

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very great hindrance to the demand for books. We have eight millions who cannot write yet.

1343. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Do you think that education among the exclusively agricultural population is spreading?—Yes, in many places; I know everything that is given is an addition, for there was nothing; take Norfolk for instance, there have been schools set up there where there were none. I have heard of a parish in Norfolk where a woman was the parish clerk because there was not a man in the parish who could read and write.

1344. Was that long ago?—No; the Church of England Society made some examination of the state of education in Norfolk with a view to found schools there, and they found things in a most deplorable state there; there were about 400 people in this parish which I spoke of, where the lady officiated.

1345. Sir *H. Verney.*] Is she still the clerk?—I think she is; she was the only person who could do it.

1346. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Could you suggest any plan for extending libraries in this country?—I cannot, except they could get a rate; a small grant would not be sufficient unless they had very large donations.

1347. *Chairman.*] Do you think that considerable accessions would be made by way of donations, provided a library were once established?—If they were free libraries.

1348. It would become a matter of local interest?—Yes.

1349. Mr. *Charteris.*] Do you think there would be considerable subscriptions raised in the localities, if it were known that the Government would give a grant in proportion to the sum subscribed?—Yes.

1350. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] To whom would you entrust the care of the libraries? —Trustees might be appointed.

1351. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Would not it be better in boroughs to have the town council as trustees?—I would put all those things under the town council. I am sure as you increase the duties of the town council, and invest them with higher functions, you will have better men elected to the town council.

1352. If the town council would be at the expense of erecting a building and providing the necessary accommodation, do you not think that donations would be made of books, and pictures, and works of art, to a great extent?—Yes, to a very large extent, sufficient to make a large library in a very short time.

1353. And the exhibition of works of art would superinduce a taste for reading?—Certainly it would.

1354. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Do not you think that in some large towns, though there might be one general public library, it might be necessary to have branch libraries for the accommodation of those who lived at a great distance?—There should be district libraries.

1355. *Chairman.*] In towns like Liverpool and Manchester, there ought to be four or six public libraries?—Yes, otherwise it would be a waste of time to a working man in going for his books.

1356. Mr. *Brotherton.*] If the large libraries were lending libraries, it would not be so necessary to have branch libraries except in large towns?—Not if you allowed a reasonable time for reading the books.

1357. Mr. *Charteris.*] I gather from you that your opinion is, that the diffusion of knowledge and the establishment of libraries for the benefit of the working classes would have the effect of rendering the people less liable to be led aside and made tools of by political agitators?—Yes; towns in which I think that sort of agitation does least, are those in which there is most reading. There are certain towns in England in which the agitator could do more than in others, and those are the most ignorant.

1358. Mr. *Wyld.*] Do you know anything of the coal mining population round about Birmingham; are they frequenters of those libraries and reading-rooms?—Not very much; yet in the Staffordshire coal district they are setting up libraries and institutions in every village almost; but up to very lately they have been rather a neglected population; high wages and heavy feeding rather than anything intellectual have been the characteristics of the mining population; in Staffordshire they are certainly increasing the number of their libraries.

1359. Do you think that the intelligence of the mining population is behind that of the manufacturing population?—Yes; they are a coarser people and feed grossly; in a large town the influences which educate a man against his will are almost incessant; there are so many public meetings.

1360. *Chairman.*]

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1360. *Chairman.*] That forms the most valuable part of the education which an Englishman receives?—Yes; it has put us beyond some of the nations of the Continent, who have more school instruction.

1361. Is not it the case that there is great tendency to order where the people think much before they act?—Yes; there is not a night in Birmingham but there is a lecture, or public meeting, or concert, or a debate, or something of that kind, sometimes three or four a night.

1362. Do not you hold that this education by collision, as it may be called, is the best of all?—It makes them citizens.

1363. Mr. *Wyld.*] Is it the case that the mining population very rarely attend those meetings?—They are increasingly doing so; they were very much neglected till of late years.

1364. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Is the mining population one that can read?—Many can, but not much.

1365. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Are you acquainted with the Durham mining district?—Very slightly.

1366. Mr. *Wyld.*] Are there any collieries with libraries appended to them? I cannot say; the factories are doing that now. A bookseller told me that in Manchester there is a great demand for books, to go to form factory libraries. He attributed it to a book published in Manchester, which came out and was reviewed, as since that he had had a great demand for books to go to factory libraries. It was a novel or tale of Manchester life, which attracted great attention.

1367. Mr. *Kershaw.*] Do you think the prevailing tendency of the mind of the working classes is to study political subjects rather than any other general literary topics?—I think their greatest interest is in political subjects.

1368. *Chairman.*] May not that lead them to study others?—It is not to the neglect of others. I think it is so with Englishmen generally, that political questions are the most interesting to them, and next to those historical subjects, and then perhaps travels and poetry, which is a great deal read, very much indeed, and of course the result is, very much poetry is written by working people. Anybody connected with a newspaper knows what an enormous flood of poetry the working classes send in the course of a year; in fact it would, in a few years, fill a small room full, all of which shows that there is a great deal of thinking and reading going on; because, though it is a compliment to call some of it poetry, still when a man can write eight or nine verses of rhyme at all tolerable, he must have made some way in reading and writing, and acquiring the English language. In the newspapers there is a great deal of correspondence from working people; it is so in Birmingham, about all sorts of things.

1369. Mr. *Hamilton.*] The practice of giving prizes for essays on certain subjects, to be written by working people, is very prevalent?—Yes.

1370. Have you seen many of the essays that have been written on those subjects?—There have been some essays written lately about Sabbath observance. Three prizes were gained by three working men at Birmingham, whom I know well. I have seen them, and they were really well written; their fault is the fault which generally those people have at first, that is, more words than thoughts; they want shaking a little, to let the words drop out.

1371. Then, upon the whole, you consider they are good specimens?—Yes.

1372. *Chairman.*] Is the higher class of poetry read by the working people?—Yes, very much.

1373. In many instances do you know of their being acquainted with our best poets?—Yes; Shakspeare is known by heart, almost. I could produce men who could be cross-examined upon any play.

1374. Is Milton much read?—Yes; but less than Shakspeare.

1375. Is that spirit increasing?—Yes, increasing.

The Rev. *William Robert Fremantle,* called in; and Examined.

Rev. *W. R. Fremantle.*

1376. *Chairman.*] YOU are, I believe, a Clergyman of the Church of England, engaged in Buckinghamshire?—Yes.

1377. Where at?—Claydon.

1378. Have you turned your attention to the institution of libraries in villages for the instruction of the rural population?—Yes, I have.

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1379. Are those libraries extending, to your knowledge, in different parts of the country?—Yes, very much.

1380. Do you think there is an inclination to make use of them on the part of the agricultural people of the country?—Very much indeed; increasingly so.

1381. Can you give the Committee an idea of the books which compose any of the rural libraries within your district?—I might observe that people are very little acquainted with the extraordinary ignorance of the poor people in rural districts, such as Buckinghamshire, and many of the books which we select for those libraries I find lie upon the shelves unread, and the consequence is, we require duplicates over and over again of such works as Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, Robinson Crusoe, Cook's Voyages, and works of that description; but what we are aiming at is to raise the standard, so as to get them to read books of practical science and books of a higher description altogether.

1382. Do you make any attempts to connect education with their pursuits, so as to instruct them, for instance, in matters connected with agriculture?—Yes; but there is a difficulty in creating an interest upon the subject. I have found that if we established a lending library which is entirely free, very few people will come for the books, and if they receive the books they do not read them; they care very little about them; therefore we have adopted a different plan, namely, that of making them pay a small sum for the use of the books; we make them pay 1 *d.* a month, and by that means we get a little sum for the payment of the librarian, and the books are valued and more read; I have noticed a very different demand since we have adopted this plan, to the state of things previously.

1383. Could you give the Committee an idea of the books themselves as forming part of such libraries as you have there?—I might say, in a few words, we have selected the books which we think most convenient from the Religious Tract Society, and the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. We have confined ourselves almost exclusively to these.

1384. You intermingle books of instruction and amusement with religious books?—Yes.

1385. Mr. *Charteris.*] Have you books of political history?—We have the Life of Napoleon and other books of biography.

1386. The history of England?—Yes.

1387. The Waverley novels?—No; we have no novels.

1388. Have you any books of poetry?—Yes.

1389. Shakspeare?—Shakspeare would be lost upon them, I think; I have only spoken of the village lending library; if reference be made to the more extended circle to which the library in the district would be applicable, that would be otherwise.

1390. Do you think that the people could not understand the beauties of Shakspeare?—No.

1391. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Yours is an exclusively agricultural district?—Yes.

1392. Mr. *Wyld.*] And your poetry is chiefly of a devotional class?—Chiefly; and I might add that poor people have very little time for reading.

1393. Mr. *Charteris.*] In the winter the agricultural labourer has a great deal of time for reading, has not he, in the evening?—They go to bed very early; we open our library on the Monday evening, where they have a good fire and have good light, and many of the poor men, and even the bigger boys, come in and spend a couple of hours, and enjoy it very much.

1394. Is it one day a week?—Yes.

1395. *Chairman.*] You have a good room, have you?—Yes.

1396. Mr. *Charteris.*] If your funds would admit of it, should you think it desirable to open it on other days; say three days a week?—Yes; I might add that since the establishment of these lending libraries, I have been enabled to do what I could not do before, engraft a young man's society upon it; a sort of young man's mutual improvement society; those young men I find are very anxious for books, and they are reading a higher class of books. We give them lectures once a fortnight upon scientific subjects and historical subjects, tending to illustrate the truth of religion, and it is creating a great interest and causing discussion among them; those young men are inquiring for the higher class of books, and which in time we shall be glad to supply them with.

1397. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Are they farmers' or labourers' sons, or both?—Very few of them are farmers' sons; I am sorry to say the farmers in my district are not

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not disposed to assist in the establishment of the young men's society; they object to the extension of any but religious knowledge among the labourers.

1398. *Chairman.*] Do you not think that it is almost useless to have schools in villages and to instruct the people, that is, to give them the means to read, unless they have something to read in after life, after they have left school?—You must not expect too much of the labouring population; they read very little.

1399. Mr. *Charteris.*] They have not had the means, have they, generally speaking, hitherto; you can hardly judge of what they will do, can you, until those means have been placed at their disposal?—I hardly know how to answer that question.

1400. *Chairman.*] You find that the institution of those libraries has done good, do you not?—Decidedly.

1401. And do you think that the public in general approve of that appendix to the system of education you give in the villages?—Unless you supply them with books it is useless to educate.

1402. Mr. *Charteris.*] What reasons do the farmers assign for opposing themselves to the spread of education and knowledge among the labourers in your district?—I should be sorry to say anything unfavourable to farmers; I have a great respect for them, but I am afraid if they do not read themselves, they do not like to see the labouring class becoming really and truly wiser than themselves; if the farmers do not move forward, the labouring classes will be the wiser of the two. I have many young men in my parish better instructed than the farmers, and who could give a better answer to a question than many of the farmers themselves.

1403. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Have not the efforts to diffuse education of late years been made more among the very lower classes of labourers than among the class immediately above them?—The farmers have taken advantage of the spread of education, because the farmer will send his son to the parish school at a very small increase of payment, but I think the farmers have not benefited themselves as they ought to have done, because they ought to aim to put their children to a higher grade of education than the labourers in our schools have.

1404. Have you found the farmers' sons and the labourers' sons sitting side by side, and the labourers' sons knowing more than the farmers' sons?—Yes, and that is undesirable.

1405. *Chairman.*] Speaking from your experience, do you think that the habits and character of the rural population have improved or otherwise?—Very much improved.

1406. In what respect are they improved?—In temperance, in general honesty, and I think in their temporal concerns.

1407. They are better off in fact, to use an old English phrase?—Yes, I think so.

1408. Then do you not think that those improvements naturally point to the collateral improvement, which ought to take place in their means of instruction through books; do you not think that people so improved in habits will feel greater pleasure in reading than the more drunken population that existed many years ago, to a great extent?—Yes.

1409. Mr. *Charteris.*] Is that improvement in a great measure owing to improvement in education?—Certainly.

1410. To the higher standard of education?—Yes, to the higher standard of education.

1411. *Chairman.*] Do you not think that village libraries might be made very useful instruments, not only to promote the religious and moral improvement of the people, but also the material improvement of the people, by teaching them such common things as household economy, the advantages and general influence of ventilation for their cottages, and many other things which have a mere material existence, yet tend to promote their welfare?—Certainly, and the more it can be done the better.

1412. Sir *H. Verney.*] Do you think that in a purely rural population any body of persons could be found capable of managing such an institution as a village library?—Do you mean one of our common labourers?

1413. I mean one of an improved character?—Yes; I think you might find our first class boys who have gone through our schools, and who have been kept there till they are 14 or 15 years of age, such boys as we send up as candidates for

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for the training college, would be competent to take charge of a library in a rural district.

1414. Mr. *Charteris.*] Do you think in a purely rural district, with that opposition to the spread of education which you have alluded to on the part of the farmers, there would be any difficulty in obtaining local subscriptions for the foundation and establishment of libraries?—I think there would be no difficulty in obtaining voluntary contributions, but compulsory ones are entirely out of the question. It is a mere momentary objection, and will soon pass away. The class of farmers coming among us now are men of far more intelligence.

1415. *Chairman.*] Is there a great change then in the class of farmers coming among you now?—Yes; a very great improvement.

1416. They are new men?—Yes, new men.

1417. Mr. *Charteris.*] Within the last three years do you speak of?—Within the last seven years.

1418. *Chairman.*] Where do they come from?—From the old stock; they have been better educated.

1419. Do not the landowners in the neighbourhood of villages take great interest in the increasing and increased education of the rural population?—They are very slow in our district. Where the landlords are non-resident they are very slow in coming forward to help the schools and things of that kind to further education.

1420. Mr. *Wyld.*] Do you find a material difference in the education of the poor where there is a resident landlord?—It makes all the difference.

1421. Viscount *Ebrington.*] Do you find that the presence of a wealthy tenantry does not supply the place of the resident landlord as respects the education and care of the people?—No; they are very rarely agreed in those matters, half of the farmers siding one way and half the other; there wants the controlling influence of the resident landlord.

1422. Sir *H. Verney.*] Have you known any instances in which, from the want of some such centre as the library would supply, there has been a loss of coins or of any antiquities which have been discovered in the neighbourhood?—I am not aware of any.

1423. Have not some been found lately?—Yes; but the person who found them had books of reference, and they were discovered and traced immediately.

1424. *Chairman.*] Has not there been a great improvement in the character and also in the cheapness of books, well calculated to instruct the working classes of the country, within the last few years?—Yes, through the societies.

1425. They have been much cheaper, and far better compiled than formerly?—Quite so.

1426. I speak of such books as those which have been issued by the Irish Education Board?—Yes.

1427. Those are very good books, I believe?—I prefer the set of school books of the Irish Board to any others that have been published.

1428. Mr. *Wyld.*] In your village lending libraries have you any books referring to the particular agricultural pursuits of your people?—Yes; we have "The Flail and the Plough," and different other books. A set of books have been published with that object.

1429. Do you find that the labourers read them?—Yes.

1430. Do you trace any improvement from the reading those books in their habits and conversation?—Yes; in their habits and conversation, and in a variety of ways.

1431. Mr. *Charteris.*] Are the farmers men of capital generally in your parish?—Yes.

1432. And they farm to a considerable extent?—Yes, some of them.

1433. To the extent of 200 or 300 acres?—Perhaps I may be allowed to say one word with regard to the farmers. Our farmers are not deficient in intelligence themselves; they have a farmers' society of their own, and they read the publications of the Agricultural Society, &c.; but I think there is a little jealousy with reference to the poor people treading on their heels. That is very much the feeling at present.

1434-5. Sir *H. Verney.*] Do you think that if libraries of an improved character could be introduced into the rural districts, that would be a desirable thing?—I think that if you could have a library in a rural district containing standard works and books of a more expensive character, it would be exceedingly useful

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to the upper classes, the teachers of others, such as the clergy, and dissenting ministers, schoolmasters, and the upper class of tradesmen and farmers, who have nothing of the sort. The clergy complain very much of it. If we have an intelligent man coming into the neighbourhood, the first thing he asks is, Have you a library? can I get such a book? We had an excellent young man who said he should be obliged to leave the district because there was no library he could make use of, and that he should go to the neighbourhood of Oxford. In my neighbourhood there is the basis of a very nice library, in the vestry of one of the churches. I went to preach there some few Sundays ago, and I found a most beautiful and splendid copy of Nicolas de Lyra, and Poole's Synopsis, and Fox's Acts and Monuments, and two or three similar books. Those are the sort of books that would be useful; and I should greatly rejoice to see the lower class of dissenting ministers able to get access to such books. I think much evil is done in our country districts by reason of poor men who go preaching and lecturing about the country having no books to read, but just the books of their sects, an odd volume of Benson's, Wesley's, Whitfield's, or whatever it may be; they go and retail the sentiments of those men, and know nothing else. If they had the means of looking at good commentaries, and writings contained in more expensive books, it would open their minds, and we should have a better state of feeling in the country districts.

1436. *Chairman.*] Is the library you speak of an old parochial library?—I imagine it is the remains of one, but the books have been moth-eaten and destroyed.

1437. Do you know of the existence of traces of other old parochial libraries in different parts of the country?—I never heard of any but that one.

1438. Besides the books of the Irish Board of Education, there are a great number of other very cheap and very good books, which have been published in London, are there not?—Yes, there are.

1439. Which are much more available and better compiled, and much cheaper than such books used to be in former times?—Much cheaper.

1440. Therefore have we not the instruments for forming the libraries much more readily at our disposal than our ancestors had?—Yes.

Thomas Maitland, Esq., Solicitor-general for Scotland, a Member of The House; Examined.

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1441. *Chairman.*] WILL you be so kind as give the Committee some information on the subject of the Advocates' Library at Edinburgh?—It is a library which belongs to the private body of the Faculty of Advocates, and has, from its institution, belonged to them. It has always, however, appeared to me to possess one very important character as a public library, in so far as it enjoys a public right in the shape of the privilege of Stationers' Hall.

1442. That is, the privilege of receiving a copy of every publication from Stationers' Hall?—Yes.

1443. You would conceive that privilege to give it the character of a public library?—I cannot imagine that the privilege was intended to be given simply for use of a body of private barristers. Though the library is the property of the advocates, practically it is the property of the public, for there is no library in Great Britain where the access given to the public generally is more liberal than in the Advocates' Library. Strictly speaking, an order is required to obtain admission to it, but that has fallen into desuetude. Every person of respectable appearance applying for access to books or manuscripts is supplied with them, and is allowed to consult them with such facilities as our limited building affords. It would require some additional buildings to make it thoroughly useful; but to the extent of our accommodation the public are received most liberally. I never heard of a case of an order being required from a stranger. In the case of a person of respectable appearance it would never be thought of.

1444. Mr. *Wyld.*] At what hour is it opened?—When the court is sitting, at nine in the morning, and it remains open till four in the afternoon. When the court is not sitting it is opened at ten and remains open till four. The great defect in the administration of the Advocates' Library, in my opinion, is the extent to which it has been converted into a common circulating library. Apart altogether from the books obtained from Stationers' Hall, the injury to the library has been quite incredible. All the ordinary readable books, for which there is a great demand, are now reduced into a state and condition so bad that it is perfectly disgraceful.

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disgraceful. The more rare books, which are given out only on the order of the Curators, are in better order. The manuscripts are well preserved; they are only given out on a special order from the Curators; but the great bulk of the library is considered and used as a common circulating library. As the library is the private property of the faculty, it may at first sight appear difficult to find grounds for legislative interference with it. But I must own that the possession of the privilege of Stationers' Hall gives, in my view, a very sufficient ground for such interference. It could never have been the intention of the statute to give that privilege to injure authors and publishers, by immediately converting the books so given to the ordinary purposes of a circulating library. The intention must have been, as it ought to have been, to place them in a library of deposit to be used and consulted to any extent within the walls of the library, but above all to be preserved. So far, however, from that being the case, you have a return in your hands by Dr. Irving, in which he states that he can give no account of the books that have been obtained from Stationers' Hall, because no account has been preserved. As they come from Stationers' Hall they are boarded, and are immediately placed upon the public tables of the library. In this way not only books of travels or other books of ephemeral literature, but works of the highest value published in this country are immediately converted into common circulating purposes among readers extending to between 400 and 500. I do not think that was the original intention, and I think it is an unfair use, of the grant. Besides, it is extremely destructive to the books. They are not preserved as they ought to be, as a gift from Stationers' Hall. They do not remain a public deposit, but are, to a great extent, so destroyed by the mode in which they are used as to be unfit to be deposited in a great public library.

1445. Mr. *Charteris.*] Do you think the privilege has the effect of restricting the sale?—Yes, I think it is injurious to it.

1446. Mr. *Wyld.*] Is there no account of the books sent from Stationers' Hall?—They can give you no return; they make their demand through the warehousekeeper at Stationers' Hall, who takes, I think, charge of the books, and they are immediately furnished as if they had been a purchase by an ordinary circulating library.

1447. There is no catalogue at all?—There is no separate catalogue of Stationers' Hall books.

1448. *Chairman.*] The books that are thus circulated after the fashion of a common circulating library, date from a particular period, if I understand you rightly?—That has been the practice all along; before we had the Stationers' Hall privilege books were lent out.

1449. The Copyright Act to which you refer, dates originally from the time of Queen Anne?—Yes.

1450. Mr. *Charteris.*] All the books are lent out, I understand you; that lending is not confined to the gift from Stationers' Hall?—No, certainly not confined to the books from Stationers' Hall.

1451. Is the circulation confined to the faculty?—Yes, confined to the faculty, and to the Judges of the Court of Session who have been advocates, and paid the subscription at entering: they do not lose the privilege by becoming Judges. That is a varying body, from 400 to 450 individuals; it is about 426 at this moment.

1452. Mr. *Wyld.*] Was not the privilege extended to the Advocates' Library by the Act brought in by Mr. Serjeant Talfourd?—No, I think not. Certainly, the privilege was possessed before that time; I think it was given in Queen Anne's time.

1453. You had not, anterior to Serjeant Talfourd's Act received the books so regularly as you have received them since that time?—We had difficulty in getting them. Indeed, when we came to think of legal proceedings, the Faculty found great difficulty in determining how they could sue, not being what is properly called a corporation in England. There was difficulty in vesting any party with a good title to go into an English court, and we were glad to avoid the cost of trying the case. But since that Act was passed, we have generally got a larger quantity of Stationers' Hall books than before. Still I believe we do not get all. There was an inquiry lately as to English law books; and it appeared that we were not furnished with all the law books which ought to be in the library.

1454. Since the passing of Mr. Serjeant Talfourd's Act have you received more books, and much more regularly than formerly?—We have of late years received

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received them much more regularly, and the more regularly we receive them the greater is the extent of the abuse of immediately converting them to the ordinary purposes of a circulating library.

1455. *Chairman.*] Then what is the reform you would suggest in respect to the Advocates' Library?—I think the only satisfactory and practical reform in the Advocates' Library would be to put an end to that circulation of the books. How the Legislature can reach it I am not prepared to say; I know a strong opinion prevails among a number of distinguished members of the Scotch bar that that would be a great improvement.

1456. Mr. *Charteris.*] There being no discretionary power of lending in the librarian?—I would not take the discretionary power from the Curators; occasionally it may be desirable to print from an ancient manuscript where only one copy may exist, and that in the Advocates' Library. I would not deprive them of the power of lending it out to transcribe for the purpose of publication. And there are books of Scottish history so rare that I should be disposed to deal with them as with the manuscripts; but with those exceptions, I should not be disposed to let the books circulate at all.

1457. Do you not think, in the case of persons *bonâ fide* engaged in literary pursuits, in reading some books it would be a very great convenience to take the books home and study them at their leisure at their own homes?—I think that is quite inconsistent with the proper preservation of a great library; the parties had much better go to the library; I would make great exertions to give every accommodation, such as is given in the British Museum; that is, a better system of preserving the character of a national library, and such, I think, ought to be the character of the Advocates' Library.

1458. *Chairman.*] Do you not think it would be better, in the case of persons desiring to consult those rare books, that they should consult them in the library and adopt one general system by means of sets of books affording instruction to the great masses of people in towns, to constitute a lending library?—I think manuscripts and rare books might be consulted with advantage, and it would be safer that they should be consulted, in the library.

1459. Mr. *Wyld.*] Do you not think it would be an advantage, to a certain extent at least, to pursue the system that is pursued on the Continent, of lending works of a not highly valuable character on the assurance of the respectability of the persons who take them?—That would not answer the purpose if it was at the discretion of the librarian; you must remember that every member of Faculty and every Judge is entitled to go and have them at once; you could not leave the ordinary circulation of a book to the discretion of the librarian. It appears to me very difficult to keep up a public library except at an enormous cost, using it as a circulating library; we have not the means of doing it; with such a mass of readers you would require to renew the books every one or two years; they are unavoidably destroyed; I do not think the Stationers' Hall books could be worse used if they were given to any common reading club or circulating library in Edinburgh.

1460. Have you any duplicate copies in the library?—Yes, that has been found absolutely necessary for law books, and books of ordinary use, the copies of which are rapidly worn out.

1461. Do you think that such duplicates might be made available as lending books, to be lent out?—There is a class of books so completely destroyed by having been lent out, that, so long as they are capable of hanging together, I should not care what was done with them; where new books are got in, I am very doubtful whether they should be used in that way; those coming from Stationers' Hall certainly ought not; it is an abuse of the privilege, as I have already said.

1462. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Have you many valuable manuscripts?—I believe about 2,000, many of great value, connected with the history of the country.

1463. Are facilities afforded for making them useful or available?—Quite so. The greatest possible facility is given to any party who has an intention of publishing any work, and great facilities are given for transcription; the transcript is made in the library, if the manuscript is of excessive value; when it is not of so great value a respectable person is allowed to take it with him, under the authority of the Curators. That is a thing the librarians cannot do; they must go to the managers, of whom we have five or six elected annually, to obtain that privilege.

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1464. In many cases does your librarian make copies?—Our librarian has not time for that. The funds are limited; there have been few additions by purchases of late, I think.

1465. *Chairman.*] Whence are the funds derived?—By the contributions of every gentleman who comes to the bar; at one time these amounted to upwards of 3,000*l.* annually. Of late years they have been less; they have fallen off, and so we have been able to do very little in purchasing foreign books.

1466. Mr. *Wyld.*] Have you many Gaelic manuscripts?—I think not many.

1467. *Chairman.*] The number of books amounts to 148,000?—About 150,000, including the manuscripts.

1468. Do many persons frequent the library for the purpose of reading?—Yes, a considerable number. By that I do not mean that idle readers come there, but that men engaged in any sort of literary pursuits come in considerable numbers to the library, and if you were to go in any day you would see half-a-dozen persons poring over manuscripts and using rare books.

1469. Have you good accommodation for readers in the library?—As far as it goes it is good enough; we should require a good deal more to do justice to the library, to make it thoroughly useful to the public, and even to the advocates who have a right to the use of the books. In the event of any change being made with regard to the circulation of the books, I think it would be indispensable, and very desirable that the library should be kept longer open, particularly in the afternoons.

1470. Would you extend that to re-opening in the evening?—Yes, I would extend it to the evening unquestionably.

1471. You would not apprehend much danger from fire?—No, I think not; there is a very good insurance of the whole buildings. The Advocates' Library is placed in the heart of the public buildings, and is always under the care of active superintendents.

1472. You would keep it open as late as nine in the evening?—Yes, as late as nine in the evening, and it would be chiefly desirable to do that in summer, when there would be no occasion for candles.

1473. It is not, I apprehend, a library at all available to the working classes?—No, not in the least; not in any way.

1474. Mr. *Charteris.*] Is there any provision now made for lighting the library?—No, I think not, beyond the use of ordinary candles.

1475. There is no gas?—I think not; in fact, it is never open at night, so that they do not require the use of lights.

1476. *Chairman.*] Do you feel inclined to extend your evidence at all to the libraries of Scotland generally in the large towns, or would you prefer to limit your evidence to the Advocates' Library?—I have only general impressions upon the subject.

1477. Do you think that, Scotland being a country where education has had a more deep foundation than in most countries in the world, it might be desirable to follow up the results of that education by giving facilities to the people to have books by the establishment of libraries in large towns?—Yes, and in country districts; I should not be disposed to limit it to large towns.

1478. Do you know whether there is any great desire for an increase in the number of books in large towns?—I am well acquainted with the feeling in the rural districts.

1479. Is not the agricultural portion of the population of Scotland, as compared with those of many other countries, a very well-instructed one?—That is my impression. I think they all read.

1480. They not only read but think?—Yes; they not only read but think, unquestionably. This is the result of our parochial education.

1481. Do you not think it would be desirable in the rural districts to have the means of supplying books to such a population?—I think it is most desirable; there is a very good library in the small town of Kirkcudbright, in the county which I represent in Parliament, kept up by private subscription, and it is most extensively used by the inhabitants of the town, and by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood of the town.

1482. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Have the population many means of reading?—They have not much opportunity, but they readily avail themselves of every opportunity within their reach; and small village libraries are not uncommon.

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1483. *Chairman.*] Has the establishment of village libraries much extended in Scotland?—It is, I hope, extending.

1484. Do the landowners, the heritors, take any interest in education?—Yes; and the clergy too, and the kirk sessions and farmers.

1485. And the influence of those libraries would extend not only to the farming population, but to the working population of the country?—I think it would, undoubtedly.

1486. Mr. *Charteris.*] And there is no jealousy on the part of the farmers to the improvement of the peasantry?—Not the slightest, I think eminently the very reverse; the intelligent farmers of Scotland, if they came to select a workman, would rather have a man who spends his time in reading than anything else. I have seen a collection of Irish educational books much used; that is a very common present to send to a village library in Scotland.

1487. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Do you think that they show a preference for political or theological works as compared with scientific or popular works on science?—They read the newspapers, and take an intelligent interest in what goes on, without devoting themselves much to matters of political excitement, and they are certainly more addicted to the perusal of the Bible, the Shorter Catechism, and books on theology, than to works of science; I speak, of course, of our rural population.

Martis, 8° *die Maii*, 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Kershaw.
Mr. Wyld.
Mr. Bunbury.
Mr. Hamilton.
Mr. Thicknesse.
Mr. Mackinnon.
Mr. Brotherton.
Sir Harry Verney.
Mr. Ewart.

WILLIAM EWART, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Henry Stevens, Esq. called in; and Examined.

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1488. *Chairman.*] YOU were formerly Librarian I believe of the Yale College Library in the United States of America?—I was the Librarian of one of the libraries of 10,000 volumes.

1489. Your knowledge of the libraries of America therefore is tolerable complete?—I have paid much attention to the economy of public libraries. Having visited the principal libraries of England, as well as those of Paris, Berlin, Munich, Stuttgard, Strasburg, Dresden, Gottingen, and Hanover, in 1847, with a view chiefly of acquainting myself with the details of their various systems, I returned to America, and in 1848, during my travels, examined most of the principal libraries, and their respective systems.

1490. Can you favour the Committee with a statement respecting the different species of libraries which exist in the United States?—The public libraries of the United States are small, but very numerous. We have but two containing above 50,000 volumes; while there are nine above 20,000, 43 above 10,000, more than 100 above 5,000 volumes, and thousands of smaller ones. The different species of libraries are: the Congress Library, the State libraries, the college and university libraries, libraries of mechanics' associations, mercantile and apprentice libraries, libraries of learned societies, joint-stock and subscription libraries, town, city, village, and municipal libraries, church or congregational libraries, academy libraries, common school libraries, and Sunday school libraries. The aggregate number of volumes in 182 of the largest libraries is 1,294,000. The want of large public consulting libraries, like those of Europe, is much felt by students in the United States. Many persons engaged in works requiring great research, are obliged to visit London, or Paris, or Berlin. These deficiencies, however, are being fast remedied by the extensive private libraries upon particular subjects, such as those of Mr. Brown, of Providence; Mr. Lenox, of New York; Mr. Force, of Washington; Mr. Barton, of Philadelphia; Professor Ticknor, and Mr. Livermore, of Boston, &c. &c.; the possessors of which are very liberal in permitting the use of their books. These libraries contain many books of the greatest rarity, and such as are considered too expensive to be purchased by the public institutions. A large public library is about to be established at Washington, called the Smithsonian Institution; and another in New York, called the Astor Library. In 1848, John Jacob Astor died, leaving to the city of New York 80,000 *l.* to establish a public library; only 15,000 *l.* can be expended on the building which is now being erected. £. 25,000 are to be expended at once in the purchase of books; and hereafter, it is believed, there will be nearly 2,000 *l.* a year for the increase of the library. Dr. Cogswell, the librarian, has recently purchased in Europe, 15,000 or 20,000 volumes for this library.

1491. Of those libraries, which are freely accessible to the public?—Most of them are more or less free to the public. The Smithsonian and Astor Libraries will be quite free to anybody to read, but they will not lend books. The Congress Library is free to all the world.

1492. May any stranger go in, or any native of the United States of any class? —Yes; there is a rule that every person shall at first be introduced to the Congress Library by a member of Congress, but that rule is only on the door.

1493. The library is virtually open to everybody?—Entirely so.

1494. Any individual may go in and apply to the librarian for a book and he receives it?—Yes; but he cannot take it from the library without an order from a member of Congress.

1495. What are the other public libraries freely accessible?—Many of the college libraries, the State libraries, the Historical Society libraries, academy and common school libraries, and the town or city libraries.

1496. Are the subscription and joint stock libraries open to everybody, without any introduction?—They are free to subscribers or shareholders by right, and others by courtesy.

1497. Do not the subscribers demur to persons who do not subscribe having access to the library?—No, I think not; their object is to show the library and gain subscribers.

1498. May a person read for any length of time in one of those subscription libraries?—He may be tolerated by courtesy for a short time.

1499. For a short time only?—For a few months.

1500. On the Continent a person may go and read for a whole year without being objected to by anybody; that is not the case in the libraries you are speaking of?—In many of the large libraries he may do so.

1501. Without subscribing?—Yes; that is the case in the New York State Library, New York Historical Society, Howard College Library, Yale College, Second Municipality Library of New Orleans, &c.

1502. Is the New York State Library supported by the State?—It is entirely.

1503. That is not a subscription library?—No.

1504. How many State libraries are there?—Almost every State has one; a few of the new States may not have one yet.

1505. Are those State libraries freely accessible to the public?—Entirely so.

1506. How are they supported?—By annual grants generally.

1507. Are those annual grants contributed to at all by local subscription?—No.

1508. They are entirely supported by the States?—Yes; but they are increased by the interchange with all the other States and the general government, of all their respective publications.

1509. Those interchanges consist of State papers and reports?—Yes, and of all books published by the States; New York has published a great many books, historical, geographical, scientific, &c.

1510. Will you give an instance of some of the principal works which have been published at the expense of the States of America?—The State of New York, besides its State papers and its judicial reports, has published 15 large quarto volumes on the Natural History of the State, a State Atlas, and is about to publish some very important historical collections; the general Government has published many valuable books, besides their laws, journals, and State papers; some of them are entitled, "The United States Exploring Expedition," to be completed in 21 large 4to volumes. "The American Archives," in 20 folio volumes. The "State Papers," in 26 folios. It is now publishing, under the direction of the Coast Survey, an important series of charts and maps.

1511. That is, it has supplied the funds to an author who has written upon that subject?—It has employed the authors, and paid the whole expenses of preparing the works for the press, and publishing.

1512. Can you give the Committee a list of any other works which have been published by the States of America?—Many of the States have published geological surveys, as they are called; histories, reports on scientific subjects, maps, &c., besides their regular State papers and law reports.

1513. All those State libraries are quite accessible to everybody, are they?—Entirely so. The New York State Library is open to any person from nine o'clock in the morning to nine in the evening.

1514. Whatever his rank, and whatever his nation?—Yes.

1515. Is no recommendation needed?—No.

1516. Does he write down his name and address?—No record is kept.

1517. Have they lost many books in consequence of that system in the United States?—No, very few are lost.

1518. Can you give the Committee the amount of the grants in the State of New York?—The amount varies from 2,000 to 5,000 dollars annually, with an occasional special grant.

1519. In English money about 1,000 *l.* a year?—I think the average amount of the grant is about 700 *l.* now, but they often make special grants.

1520. Can you state the number of books in the library of New York?—About 15,000 volumes.

1521. Can you state the number of volumes in any other of the State libraries?—I am not prepared to give the numbers in the other State libraries. They are generally much smaller. Within the last three or four years the interest in State libraries has greatly increased.

1522. The principal library of the United States, in a national sense, is the Congress Library, and next come the State libraries?—Yes, and the college or university libraries; but the Smithsonian and Astor libraries will soon surpass all the others in the number of volumes.

1523. What are the next to them?—The subscription and joint stock libraries.

1524. And then come the academy libraries?—Yes.

1525. Then what follows?—In each State almost there is an historical society library. There are also libraries of other learned societies.

1526. Is the historical society library a subscription library?—The members on being elected, pay an entrance fee, and an annual tax usually: from this money the library is supported, with an occasional grant from the State. In the city of New York it is free to readers having definite objects of research; and much pains is taken to increase the number of readers or visitors.

1527. Mr. *Wyld.*] Those libraries consist of historical works, do not they, the literature and history of the State?—Historical works of all kinds, but chiefly relating to the particular State. They are repositories also of manuscripts, pamphlets, newspapers, &c.

1528. *Chairman.*] Anybody has access to that library in the city of New York?—Anybody having a definite object of inquiry. Books are not lent from this library.

1529. Then descending still lower, what are your next libraries below the common academy libraries?—The common school libraries; and then a very important class of libraries is our Sabbath-school libraries. Every congregation almost has its Sabbath-school library.

1530. Mr. *Wyld.*] Consisting principally of works of theology and divinity?—Books for children from five to sixteen years of age.

1531. Generally on serious subjects?—Generally; but many of them are of a miscellaneous character, books of travels, history, and biography, &c.

1532. *Chairman.*] To what extent do the legislatures or governments of the respective States control the management of libraries receiving aid from the State?—They require a report from those libraries to which they make grants.

1533. Then the academy libraries are also supported by the State?—Yes, partly; the State generally offers a bounty, or grants as much money for the academy library as the friends of the academy will contribute, not exceeding a certain amount. This limit is 50 *l.* in the State of New York. Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and other States encourage their academy and common school libraries in a somewhat similar manner.

1534. The State library is a different institution, which is solely supported by the State?—It is.

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1535. The academy library is supported by individual contributions, aided by the State?—Yes, the State giving as much as individuals give, not exceeding 50 *l.*

1536. On the system of our schools in this country, the State grants a certain proportion in consideration of a certain other proportion being advanced by individuals?—Yes.

1537. Are such libraries in any way responsible to the department of Education, or other similar bodies, in any of the States?—In the State of New York, I think in Massachusetts, and some other States, they report to the Board of Education, which report is annually published.

1538. Are any of the State libraries entitled by law to copies of all the books published within the State?—No.

1539. Did such an enactment ever exist?—I do not think it has ever been proposed.

1540. The author is not called on to give a copy of his publication?—Not to the States. He gives two copies, one to the Smithsonian Institution, and one to Congress Library. That has been in force, I believe, for two years.

1541. Those are the only two which receive copies of the works of an author?—Yes.

1542. Mr. *Bunbury.*] The Smithsonian Library is quite a new institution, is not it?—Yes.

1543. *Chairman.*] It is an institution embracing much more extensive objects than merely a library?—It has two objects, one for publishing and assisting authors, and the other the formation of a library and museum; half the funds go to the library and museum.

1544. What was the foundation of the Smithsonian Institution?—It was a bequest from Smithson, an Englishman, who resided for many years on the Continent, and died at Genoa.

1545. Do you know why he left this bequest to the United States?—I do not think he assigned any reason. By his will he bequeathed the money to the United States of America, "to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

1546. Had he resided in the States?—No, he never was in the States.

1547. He assigns no particular reason for so making the bequest, does he?—I think not; I can furnish the Committee with a copy of his will.

1548. Are the State libraries open during the evening?—The New York State Library is.

1549. To what hour?—It is open twelve hours in the day, from nine in the morning till nine in the evening, during the session of the legislature or any court. That is about half of the year; the rest of the year it is open from nine in the morning till four in the evening.

1550. Is that in summer?—Yes; when the legislature is not in session.

1551. Is it accessible in the winter's evenings to the people?—Yes. The legislature is in session from the 1st of January to April generally. By the new constitution the session cannot exceed 100 days from the 1st of January. The library is open every day in the year, except Sundays. On Christmas-day and holidays it is open one hour only.

1552. Do the people make great use of the State Library?—Yes.

1553. Do they read much in the evenings?—Yes.

1554. Is the library well lighted?—Yes.

1555. By gas?—By gas and lamps, I think.

1556. Does not gas injure the books?—I do not know that it does; the subject has been frequently discussed.

1557. Do printed catalogues of such libraries usually exist?—Yes, of nearly all the libraries in America; I should say above 1,000 volumes. The New York State Library publishes a catalogue once in five years, and an annual supplement.

1558. Are the public allowed the free use of such catalogues?—Yes.

1559. Whether they are in print or in manuscript?—Yes; many catalogues are distributed about the library, and they are sold at so reasonable a price that every man can have one.

1560. Are the State libraries usually lending libraries; may a person have a book out of the library?—They are to members of the legislature, to officers of the government, and upon the orders of those officers.

1561. Are there any other libraries in the United States which are lending libraries?—Nearly all the libraries are lending libraries.

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1562. On what conditions may the public have the use of books out of the library?—By complying strictly with the regulations, which are very different in different libraries, and are generally enforced with rigour. The average time for keeping ordinary books I should say is about two weeks, and usually three or four volumes are lent to the one person at a time if desired. The usual penalties are fines and forfeitures.

1563. Is not the loan of books limited to subscribers?—Yes, in the subscription libraries; but subscribers may generally introduce friends for a short time.

1564. I refer to libraries from which non-subscribers can have the use of the books away from the library?—The Philadelphia Library is the only one I know which lends books quite freely; it lends books to any person, whoever he is, by depositing three times the value of the book, and paying 6 *d.* for its use.

1565. What is the extent of the library of Congress at Washington?—About 45,000 volumes.

1566. Do they make additions to it annually?—They have an annual grant of about 1,100 *l.*, with frequent special grants.

1567. Is that library rapidly increasing?—Yes.

1568. The public are allowed free access to the Congress Library, are they not?—Yes.

1569. Is that a lending library?—To the members of Congress and their families, and by courtesy to others.

1570. You of course sometimes have duplicate copies of books, and perhaps even triplicate or quadruplicate copies; to what use are they devoted?—Yes; in many of our lending libraries we have as many as 25 copies of works most in demand. They are required to supply readers. Many are subsequently sold or exchanged.

1571. Do you find it necessary to have such a number of copies in consequence of the demand for the same book?—Yes; in the New York Mercantile Library they actually wear out from 10 to 20 copies of many books in the first five years after they are published. Many more books are worn out than lost by lending, which, I believe, is considered a good argument in favour of lending books, as it furnishes proof that the books are used.

1572. Do you ever exchange duplicate copies with other libraries?—It is frequently done; but oftener the duplicates are sold, if not required.

1573. Can you inform us of the number of colleges and universities in the State of New York?—I think there are 13, including the large theological institutions.

1574. Have all those libraries attached to them?—Yes, with an aggregate of about 90,000 volumes.

1575. Are they open to the public?—They are open to the public, but as lending libraries, only to those persons belonging to the respective institutions.

1576. How many academies are there in the State of New York?—One hundred and eighty-four.

1577. Have they libraries attached to them?—Every one.

1578. What are the academies?—They are higher schools; above the common schools, for the higher branches of education, next to the colleges; in the State of New York the average age of the students is about 16 or 17 years; they are for both sexes.

1579. Each academy has a library attached to it?—It has.

1580. Are those libraries available only for the pupils, or are they generally open?—I think they are open only an hour a day for lending.

1581. To whom are they open; are they open only to the pupils, or are they open to all the world?—They are only open to the pupils, generally, and by courtesy to others.

1582. Can you give the Committee an idea of the number of books in those academical libraries?—In 1848, 153 of those libraries reported that they had 63,365 volumes, making an average of 414 volumes to a library.

1583. Are they much used by the pupils in the academies?—Very much used.

1584. What is the nature of the books principally?—In the State of New York the books recommended by the regents of the university are classed as follows: theology and ecclesiastical history; history, biography, and antiquities; jurisprudence, politics, and commerce; periodical and collective works; arts and sciences, including natural philosophy, natural history, &c.; voyages and travels, geographical and statistical works; poetry; miscellaneous. The Boards of Education of other States offer similar lists for the guidance of those who are to select the academy and common school libraries.

1585. Are there scientific works as well?—There are many scientific works and ranslations of the classics.

1586. Is there a library attached to the primary and common schools in the United States?—In many of the States there is.

1587. What is the nature of that library; is it generally extensive; take, for instance, the State of New York?—They are very much like the academy libraries, containing from 100 to 2,000 volumes.

1588. To whom are they accessible?—To anybody in the district; a district in the country is generally about five square miles.

1589. Any one resident in the district has access to those libraries?—Yes.

1590. Can the people take the books out?—They are entirely lending libraries.

1591. How are they supported?—Partly by the State, and partly by individual contributions.

1592. Then the government very materially assists in the formation of libraries in the United States of America?—Very much so. The little town of North Brookfield, in Massachusetts, has recently voted to place a copy of Webster's Dictionary in the schoolhouses of each of their nine districts. The same has been done in the grammar schools of St. Louis, in Missouri.

1593. Mr. *Wyld.*] In nearly every case?—Yes; those are the States governments; the general government makes no annual grants, except to the Congress Library; it promotes libraries, however, by remitting the duties on books imported. Any public library can import books free of duty. As the greater proportion of our libraries are foreign books, this exemption from duty is important.

1594. Have you a duty on books in the United States?—Yes, 10 per cent. *ad valorem.*

1595. But all the libraries have the privilege of importing books free of duty?—Yes; any incorporated library; any one of those common school libraries may do so; it is only necessary for three or four people to meet together before a justice of the peace, and say they intend to form a public library, that is a sufficient incorporation to enable them to import books free of duty.

1596. Have your corporate towns or municipalities any libraries in the United States?—Yes; the city of Boston, two years ago, voted to establish a large public library, but it is not yet begun; the second municipality of New Orleans has established a large public library, which is now rapidly increasing.

1597. Is that the municipality or the State?—The municipality.

1598. Perhaps there are others in the United States of the same kind established by the municipalities?—There are many. In 1839 there were 15 in Massachusetts alone.

1599. Are those libraries that are founded by municipalities freely accessible to the public; may any one go into and read in them?—Yes; and, under proper restrictions, borrow books from them.

1600. Are they to any great extent, or are they quite modern?—They are quite modern generally, though some of our oldest libraries are town libraries.

1601. Are there many libraries in the United States which are the property of learned societies and other corporate bodies?—There are a great many, such as the Philosophical, Antiquarian, Historical, Oriental, American, Academy, and other societies.

1602. Are such libraries usually made accessible to the public?—They are for special purposes.

1603. Does such public accessibility result from certain established regulations, or is it a matter of personal favour in those corporate libraries, or the libraries belonging to learned bodies?—I think any one can go into them with proper introductions, or with definite objects of research in view.

1604. Has the Smithsonian Institution, which you described as formed for the double purpose of establishing a library and of assisting authors in the publication of their works, published any work?—It has published its first volume of "Contributions to Knowledge," its first Annual Report on Libraries, and a few others. I am myself abroad now, preparing a work to be published by the institution, entitled, "Bibliographia Americana, or a Bibliographical Account of the Materials of Early American History, prior to 1700."

1605. Will you have the goodness to state the present income of the Smithsonian Institution?—About 6,500 *l.*, half of which is for the library; they intend at first to purchase costly works; that is the publications of learned societies in all parts of the world, and such other books as are not likely to be found at present in any of the public libraries of America.

1606. Was not it the recommendation of the library committee of the Smithsonian Institution that Smithson's Library shall chiefly comprise books not to be found in other American libraries?—It was talked of; I think they are acting upon it now, although they have not yet purchased many books, but they will soon begin.

1607. Are you acquainted with the national interchanges of books which have recently taken place between some of the European governments, especially that of France, and some of the American legislatures?—About three-fourths of the States have given many copies of all their publications to Mr. Vattemare to be sent to France for the purpose of international exchanges.

1608. He is a French gentleman who is a traveller for the purpose of procuring the interchanges of books among different nations, is not he?—Yes.

1609. To what extent has the system of interchanges proceeded?—Most of the States have given him many books, and sufficient money to pay all the expenses of the exchange; the usual number, I think, is about 50 copies, and, in return, the French government has sent, through him, many important works to many of the State libraries and to the Congress Library.

1610. Have any similar interchanges taken place between the British Government and any of the American legislatures?—I applied two years ago to Congress, and the library committee granted to the British Museum every book they had in print, and seven of the States have also granted all their publications to the British Museum; some of them to the Bodleian Library.

1611. When you say every book they had in print, do you mean, that they had printed themselves?—Yes, every book which they had printed, which they had then on hand. The State of Vermont made a grant to purchase all their publications, from the establishment of the government to the present time, to present to the British Museum, and will continue to present them annually.

1612. What corresponding interchange has been made on the part of Great Britain?—Nearly 100 sets of the publications of the Record Commission have been sent to the different States and colleges.

1613. Are there any similar interchanges between any of the literary institutions of the United States and Great Britain?—Yes; many of the learned societies, literary and scientific associations, and departments of government are in the habit of exchanging publications; these interchanges might, I think, be greatly increased, much to the advantage of all parties, were there proper facilities afforded.

1614. Can you suggest to the Committee any means of encouraging or increasing such interchanges between nations?—By a remission of duties on the part of the governments, by the payment of all expenses to destination by the party sending its publications, and by a prompt and courteous acknowledgment on the part of the recipients of all presents, however trifling. An exchange agency might be established, I think, in London and New York, whose object shall be to facilitate those interchanges, by receiving and forwarding with promptitude, regularity, and economy all such parcels and letters of acknowledgment and thanks as are entrusted to it. Were such facilities established and made known to the several departments, bureaus, societies, libraries, and literary institutions, I doubt not that literary and scientific exchanges would be greatly increased, much to the advantage of all parties concerned, and to the growth of international courtesy and good will.

1615. Do you deem the present duty levied in this country on the importation of books to be a serious impediment to the circulation of American literature here?—I do.

1616. What is the relative proportion of the duty upon books imported into either country here and in the United States?—It is difficult to compare them.

1617. Ours is much the heavier, is not it?—It is heavier on certain books, not so heavy on others.

1618. What is the result of the peculiar construction of our duty on books?—On new books it is very high, 2*l.* 10*s.* a cwt., and 5 per cent.

1619. On older books it is much lower, is not it?—Yes, books published before 1801 pay only 1 *l.* a cwt.

1620. Our duty principally falls upon modern foreign literature?—Yes.

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1621. What is your duty on modern works in America ?—Ten per cent. *ad valorem*; but all the libraries get their books free of duty.

1622. And you consider that relatively the rate of duty is much higher in this country than in the United States, on modern books ?—I think it is.

1623. Have you a paper duty in the United States ?—No.

1624. Have you an advertisement duty ?—No.

1625. Your books are very much cheaper, are they not ?—Very much cheaper, generally, though there are many important exceptions. We have nothing to compare in cheapness to Bohn's and Bogue's libraries, for instance.

1626. Can you give us any instances of the relative cost of books in the United States and in England ?—The Waverley novels are printed in Boston in a style nearly equal to the Edinburgh edition at 1 *s.* a volume; Cooper's novels are sold at the same price, 1 *s.* a volume.

1627. Have you in consequence of the cheapness of publication there a great many books published for the purpose of popular instruction, like our People's Libraries, and Home and Colonial Libraries, and so on ?—Yes.

1628. Taking a book like the Works of Milton, are they published in America at a much cheaper rate, *ceteris paribus*, than in England ?—Very much cheaper.

1629. In fact, books are generally very much cheaper in the United States than in England ?—Yes.

1630. Mr. *Wyld.*] Do you mean books of research ; take, for instance, a book like Webster's Dictionary, is that much cheaper in the United States than in England ?—This is a fair specimen : the new edition in the United States is published at 1 *l.* 4 *s.*, while it is published in London, from a duplicate cast of the stereotype plates, at 2 *l.* 2 *s.* Prescott's historical works are published in New York at 8 *s.* per volume; in London in a similar style, for 14 *s.* per volume. Nearly the same difference in price is in Irving's, Bancroft's.

1631. Mr. *Bunbury.*] English works of a valuable character are reprinted very cheaply in the United States, are they not ?—Yes.

1632. I understand that Macaulay's History, for instance, has lately been published there for something which appears to us incredibly cheap ; do you happen to know what the fact is ?—There are three editions of it ; the best edition will sell for half what it sells for here ; the other editions are 1 *s.* a volume and 5 *s.*

1633. *Chairman.*] To what cause do you attribute the superior cheapness of books in the United States ?—To the great demand and the great number of copies printed.

1634. You think it is partly in consequence of the absence of a duty on paper ?—I think it is.

1635. What other causes would you assign ?—The less expense in advertising and publishing and distributing, but the chief cause is the great number of copies printed.

1636. Why do you publish so many more copies in America than in England ? Because everybody reads and buys.

1637. In the United States almost every person can read, cannot they ?—I never saw an American born who could not read and write, above eight years of age.

1638. And for that reason the publications are much more extensive than they are in England ?—Yes, I think the demand is increased by the taste for reading.

1639. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Is not it the fact that there is at the present day a very increasing demand for books of what we may call a superior description ; old European books and books of research ?—There is a very great demand, which is increasing.

1640. They are, in fact, now selling as well, if not better, in America than they are in England ?—Yes, especially the very high-priced books.

1641. *Chairman.*] Is not it the fact that American purchasers enter much more into the European market of books than they ever did before ?—Very much more.

1642. And their competition as purchasers of books in Europe is very much increasing ?—I often hear that as an excuse for the high prices which are asked.

1643. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Do you believe that the existence of public libraries so generally throughout the States has the tendency to promote that demand, or do you ascribe it entirely to the demand for private libraries ?—To both public and private libraries. Mr. Rodd told me a short time before he died that he considered his stock of old English books, in consequence of the American demand, had within the last five years increased 25 per cent. in value on the shelves.

1644. Mr. *Wyld.*] Can you, from your experience, say what is the class of readers who take works from the lending libraries; are they of the working class? Yes, they are generally, that is, persons who are engaged in active business during the day.

1645. In a very great proportion?—Yes; we have special libraries for particular classes, such as libraries for clerks, apprentices, mechanics, students, &c.

1646. Are the persons who borrow books from the large libraries of the working class to a great extent?—They are from the subscription libraries generally, and from the town libraries.

1647. From the facilities afforded by public libraries, do you find that the working classes use them to a great extent?—Very much.

1648. Do you find the working classes pretty well informed upon general subjects throughout the United States?—Yes, they spend much of their leisure time in reading.

1649. Do you attribute that to the facilities of borrowing books from public libraries?—Chiefly, and to the cheapness of books; every one has books of his own.

1650. *Chairman.*] The number of the libraries and the cheapness of books you consider to be the causes of that love for reading which exists in the United States so much?—Yes, they undoubtedly greatly increase the taste for reading.

1651. Mr. *Wyld.*] Can you give the Committee an idea of the description of books which the working classes borrow from public libraries; are they historical, or books of general literature, or novels?—Very miscellaneous; history, biography, travels, and a great deal of fiction.

1652. Is there a taste for scientific information among the working classes?—Yes, especially for works on the physical sciences.

1653. Do the agricultural population in rural districts borrow many works relating to their particular department?—Yes, and there are many books published called "Subscription Books," such as Family Encyclopædias, or works of that kind, relating wholly or partly to agriculture, horticulture, gardening, &c.

1654. Mr. *Bunbury.*] I apprehend, as a general rule, the working classes in America are in better circumstances than the working classes of England, are they not?—I should think so; still I have not been much among the working classes of England.

1655. That may have a great influence with regard to the time and the opportunities which they have of reading, independently of the low price of books?—It strikes an American very forcibly in coming to England to see how little reading there is among the labouring or business classes.

1656. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Are you acquainted generally with the agricultural population?—Yes, particularly in the New England states.

1657. In all the rural townships are there libraries?—Every school district in New England and New York has a library which is public.

1658. Mr. *Wyld.*] In almost every large town you have mechanics' libraries, have not you?—In all the large towns; that is in towns of 5,000 inhabitants and upwards.

1659. Are they generally frequented by the working classes?—Yes; they are lending libraries chiefly, with a reading room for periodicals, open in the day and evening.

1660. *Chairman.*] I understand you to say that the libraries are very well attended?—They are very well attended; those which are open in the evenings particularly. In the winter there is usually a course of lectures connected with the library, which are usually very well attended.

1661. By what class of people are they principally attended?—Chiefly in the cities by clerks, apprentices, mechanics, and those engaged in active business during the day. Females generally outnumber the males.

1662. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Are there many donations of books given by the citizens?—Yes, a great many; that is quite fashionable, especially as regards cheap literature; many persons buy the books which are so cheap to read themselves, and when they have read them they present them to libraries.

1663. *Chairman.*] When donations are made to libraries are you in the habit of recording them as the acts of the donors in the American libraries?—It is customary in some of the libraries; in others they publish in the local newspapers or in their monthly or annual reports a list of all the donors.

1664. Mr. *Brotherton.*] And probably they are mentioned in the catalogue?—

—Yes. In the State of New York the name of the donor is mentioned in the catalogue, and in many other catalogues the same.

1665. *Chairman.*] Have you had any very large donations of books, like that of Mr. Grenville to the British Museum, to constitute a department of any public library?—Mr. Elliott purchased a large library, and presented it to Harvard College. Mr. Thorndike purchased the famous Ebelling library in Germany, and also presented it to Harvard College.

1666. That would be called the Elliott Library, probably?—Yes, it is called the Elliott Library.

1667. Some record would be made of such a splendid donation as that?—Yes; there is in the Brown University, at Providence, an alcove or recess called the Brown Alcove. Mr. Lenox of New York erected an expensive library building, and presented it to the Theological Seminary at Princeton, in New Jersey.

1668. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Can you state whether among your American authors many have risen from what are considered the lower classes of society?—I think many of them have; that is, many of the literary men were poor boys, who supported themselves through college, and became literary men.

1669. *Chairman.*] Are the libraries of great use to such men?—They are, because they can take the books any distance.

1670. Supposing that a person were composing an article for a newspaper in some of the distant towns of the United States, would he have access to a library where he would find books to supply him with materials for the article he was writing?—He might not, on scientific subjects, or subjects requiring great research.

1671. On general subjects would he do so?—I think he would.

1672. Mr. *Wyld.*] You have large factories in the United States; have most of those factories libraries appended to them?—Yes, or rather they are public libraries to which the operatives have easy access.

1673. There is one at Lowell, is not there, a very celebrated one?—Yes, called the Mechanics' Institute.

1674. The workpeople in those factories sometimes contribute, do they not, to publications amongst themselves?—The factory girls of Lowell contribute to a publication called the "Lowell Offering."

1675. *Chairman.*] Has it a large circulation?—Enough to enable it to support itself.

1676. Mr. *Hamilton.*] What is the character of that publication; is it on general subjects or religious subjects?—Very miscellaneous; there is a celebrated association at Lowell called the "Improvement Circle," to which any factory girl belonging to any of the mills may become a member by subscribing her name to the constitution, and furnishing an original article on any subject she pleases, of any length she pleases, once a month. The members meet every two weeks, when all their articles are read wholly or partly. From those contributions thus offered a selection is made by one or two of the girls, who have been elected editors, and compose a monthly periodical of 24 octavo pages. They are now, I believe, on the 8th or 9th volume.

1677. What is the character of that publication; does it stand pretty well?—Very well. Mr. Knight, in London, has published a volume of selections from the "Lowell Offering," with a preface by Miss Martineau.

1678. Mr. *Wyld.*] Are there any other large factory libraries similar to that of Lowell in other parts of the States?—Every manufacturing town of any size has its public library, I think; from which people, by paying 6 *s.* or 8 *s.* a year, can have as many books as they choose. In the new town of Laurence I believe the library is quite free to the operatives.

1679. Mr. *Wyld.*] Do you find that the working classes frequent those libraries in the evening, in preference to seeking other amusements?—They generally draw their books from lending libraries, but then they have in Lowell, both among the males and females, debating societies, lyceums, reading-rooms, and lectures, and those are crowded.

1680. Are those populations distinguished for good order and propriety of conduct?—Yes.

1681. Do you attribute that to the diffusion of literature and literary information among them?—Yes, in a great degree.

1682. *Chairman.*] Are the people generally more orderly where they have free access to books, do you think?—Where they have access to books and lectures so as to occupy their evenings, I think they are.

1683. You think it produces a good effect upon the order of the community, do you?—I think it does.

John Fitchett Marsh, Esq. called in; and Examined.

1684. *Chairman.*] ARE you Town Clerk of the Borough of Warrington?—I am.

1685. You have very materially assisted, I believe, in the formation of a public library at Warrington?—I have taken an active part in doing so.

1686. Connected with the museum?—Forming part of the museum, under the name of the Warrington Museum and Library.

1687. Is that museum established by the provisions of an Act of Parliament, called the Museums Act?—It is.

1688. What is the nature of that Act?—To enable the council of any municipal borough, of a certain population, to levy a rate to the extent of a halfpenny in the pound to support a museum.

1689. What is the nature of the museum which you have founded?—It is a museum of natural history, science, and the fine arts, in fact it is intended to comprise objects of every description of curiosity and interest.

1690. Do you try to make it as much as possible a topographical museum, to illustrate the history, natural history, and geology of the locality?—That is very much our object.

1691. Do you conceive that it will have a proportionate degree of utility in consequence of that peculiarly local object?—I do.

1692. You have added to the museum a library?—Yes.

1693. That would not be under the provisions of the Museums Act, which does not give power to form libraries?—We consider that a library may form part of a museum, and that it does come within the provisions of the Act.

1694. Do you think, from your own experience, that it would be desirable to make that a positive certainty, and to amend that Act, so as to enable town councils to establish a library as well as a museum?—I think if the point be doubtful, it is very desirable that such an enactment should be made.

1695. Mr. *Brotherton.*] What sum have you expended in building that museum?—We have not yet erected any building, but we have provided, when the occasion may arise for having a building, that we shall not be without funds for that purpose; we have contemplated the possibility that some time or other a town-hall may be necessary, and that sufficient extra accommodation for the purpose in that building might possibly be obtained more cheaply than by erecting a museum.

1696. Have you levied any separate rate for the establishment of this museum? —We have asked the council to pledge themselves to levy a rate to the extent of a halfpenny in the pound annually.

1697. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Was any question raised as to whether providing for a library was within the scope of the Act?—The subject was mooted.

1698. Was any opposition offered to the rate upon that ground?—None in the council, and not from half a dozen individuals, so far as I am aware, in the borough.

1699. I suppose that the Act would be popular in the borough?—It is.

1700. *Chairman.*] Where is the museum now in Warrington?—We have taken a building for the purpose of accommodating the whole of the museum, including the library, at a small annual rent, which we consider only a temporary arrangement.

1701. Are the books pretty well accommodated there?—Very well.

1702. How long has the museum been established?—It was established in the month of June in last year, and opened on the 1st of November.

1703. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Have you received any donations of books?—We have, to the extent of between 1,100 and 1,200 volumes.

1704. *Chairman.*] Are those books of a standard character?—Those books are of a very miscellaneous description, but many of them are scarce and curious books of bibliographical interest.

1705. What has been the result of opening the library; have you had readers to any extent?—There have been readers; I cannot give the number of readers, but

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but I can give the number of volumes used, or the number of visitors to the whole institution.

1706. I understand your library to be perfectly accessible to any one?—During certain days of the week.

1707. Will you have the goodness to state the circumstances under which it has been established?—It was originally a proprietary library, established in the year 1760; it continued to flourish for some years, but afterwards began to decay. An attempt was then made to increase its efficiency, by opening it to a new class of subscribers, namely, those who should pay a smaller subscription, which should entitle them to the use of the books only, without any share of the management; subsequently the proprietors gave up their rights of ownership to the general body of subscribers; the library still continued to decay, and the subscriptions were gradually reduced to the sum of 10 *s.*, but notwithstanding that, the funds were so small as to allow of no additions to the library, and scarcely to keep in repair the books which were already in it. This continued till about twelve months ago, when it was proposed that the library and a museum established by a natural history society in the town should be surrendered by those bodies, for the purpose of forming the public institution which I have mentioned.

1708. What is the present revenue which you derive from the rate?—The rate will produce about 80 *l.* a year, but to increase our revenue we have provided for subscriptions being paid by those who are desirous of encouraging the objects of the institution, to an amount of not less than 10 *s.* 6 *d.* per annum, and those subscriptions are to entitle the subscribers to certain privileges, including admission to the museum and library at other times than those at which the public are admitted, and to entitle subscribers also to receive books out of the library; in fact, to make it, as regards them, a lending library.

1709. How far is the library accessible to all the public?—To the public it is accessible every Wednesday and Saturday, from ten o'clock in the forenoon to four, and from six to half-past nine in the evening.

1710. Do you find it much frequented?—It is frequented to some extent; but I think not so much as it will be, in consequence of our not yet having a catalogue of the library, which prevents its being so extensively useful as it might be.

1711. Who are the persons who frequent it?—They seem to be of the working classes.

1712. Do you think it does good to the population of Warrington?—We have scarcely had experience of that yet; I think it is very much calculated to do so.

1713. Can you give the Committee an idea of the number of visitors to the library?—The number of visitors to the whole institution during the first six months has been 6,449; in those I include only the persons who, according to our regulations, have entered their names in the book; but I should mention, that from the novelty of the thing, in the first instance, there were a very large proportion of visitors who did not comply with that regulation.

1714. Do you charge them anything for admission into the museum?—Nothing whatever.

1715. Do not you think it exceedingly desirable to make your museum and such museums depositories for all the subjects of local interest in the neighbourhood?—I think it is very desirable.

1716. Do not you think it would become a resort for historians of the country or the neighbourhood in future times?—It may be made available for such purposes.

1717. For instance, if you have any antiquities in the neighbourhood, they might be deposited there?—We have already such things deposited in the museum.

1718. Warrington was a Roman station, was not it?—It was, or at all events there was one in the immediate neighbourhood.

1719. Have any antiquities been found there?—There have, to a small extent.

1720. What is the present population of the town?—21,116.

1721. Is your institution viewed with a favourable eye by the population generally?—Very much so.

1722. Probably, if it becomes popular, it will not need much solicitation for support?—It appears likely to be very well supported. We have promises of annual subscriptions to the amount of upwards of 70 *l.*, and upwards of 650 *l.* subscribed for the erection of a museum.

1723. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Do you intend to levy an annual rate for the support of

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of the library?—We intend every year to have a rate levied to the amount of a halfpenny in the pound.

1724. Will that rate be at all onerous on the population?—Not at all.

1725. Are they likely to complain of it?—I have heard of no complaint whatever from the ratepayers.

1726. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Is it levied as a separate rate, or in connexion with any other rates?—There has only been one rate raised, and that has been connected with the borough rate; in fact the amount has been paid out of the borough rate.

1727. *Chairman.*] Have you in the town council of Warrington any committee which devotes itself to the superintendence of the institution, or generally to the subject of education?—We have a museum committee; but I ought to explain that in order to obtain the assistance of gentlemen in the town who feel an interest in the subject, and who are not members of the council, the committee have allowed some others to be associated with them, who are elected by the subscribers.

1728. Have you any curator of the museum, any person who makes it his particular duty to arrange and name the different objects which it contains?—We have a skilled naturalist, who is competent to stuff and prepare specimens, and he and his family also act as librarians, and take the general charge of the institution.

1729. Some of them are paid officers, I presume?—We pay the curator a salary, which secures the services of all his family.

1730. Do not you think the establishment of such museums as well as of libraries in the country generally would be very interesting illustrations of the different localities of the country?—I am very strongly of that opinion.

1731. Are there any public libraries in the neighbourhood of Warrington?—There is a public library at the village of Halton, two miles from Runcorn, and about eight from Warrington.

1732. What are the number of volumes in that library?—In contains 422 volumes, as nearly as I can ascertain, and although that seems a small number, it represents a library of much more importance than might be supposed, for they are nearly all voluminous and valuable works in folio.

1733. What was the date of the foundation of the Halton Library?—It was established about the year 1730 by Sir John Chesshyre, his Majesty's Serjeant at Law.

1734. Did Sir John Chesshyre intend it to be a library freely open to the public?—According to an inscription in front of the museum, it is stated to be *pro communi literatorum usu.* I extracted from the rules of the library his direction, "That for the improvement of learning, and that learned men may be encouraged to advance their knowledge by a friendly communication in their studies and labours, it is desired and intended that any divine or divines of the Church of England, or other gentlemen or person of letters desiring the same, and particularly that William Chesshyre of Halwood, near Halton, and his heirs, and the owner and inheritor of Halwood for the time being and his successors, may on application to, and with the consent of the curate for the time being, at any reasonable and convenient time or times, on every Tuesday and Thursday in the year, in the daytime, have access and resort into the said library."

1735. Is that library much used?—Scarcely at all; in fact, its existence is almost unknown.

1736. Do the population of the neighbourhood show no inclination to rescue it from the state of oblivion in which it is, and make it applicable to the public use?—Not the slightest, so far as I am aware.

1737. Mr. *Hamilton.*] To what do you attribute the circumstance that it is in such a state of oblivion?—Partly that the place where it is situated is an obscure village, and one where it would not be thought likely that such a library should be established.

1738. Is there free access to men of letters who may desire to have recourse to it?—Quite so.

1739. *Chairman.*] Is there a librarian?—The curate of Halton is librarian, according to the rules of the founder.

1740. But Runcorn is a populous place, is not it?—It has nearly 7,000 inhabitants.

1741. Might not that library, if it could be done with propriety, be made available for the larger population?—Certainly.

1742. Mr. *Wyld.*] What class of books are they?—Chiefly theology, and ecclesiastical and general history.

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1743. Of what period?—About the date of the foundation of the library, and earlier.

1744. *Chairman.*] Runcorn is not a corporate town, is it?—No.

1745 Your library and the Chetham Library are the principal, if not the only free libraries in that part of Lancashire?—I do not know anything of the regulations of the Liverpool libraries, but there are some very extensive libraries there.

1746. Is not there a library at Preston?—I believe there is, but that is at some distance from us.

1747. Have you any more suggestions or information to offer to the Committee on the subject of your library?—I find there were 345 books borrowed out of the library in the first six months, and 369 read in it.

1748. Mr. *Wyld.*] I suppose you have a great many factories and collieries in the neighbourhood of Warrington?—Not many collieries in the immediate neighbourhood; factories we have.

1749. Do you find the factory or colliery population frequent your library much?—I should think the factory population does. We have no collieries within five miles of Warrington.

1750. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Have any of the factories libraries attached to themselves?—I think not.

1751. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Have you sought, in forming a library such as this is, in connexion with a museum, to introduce works of natural history, with a view of illustrating, as it were, the museum?—That is one of our principal objects.

1752. Does it strike you, in forming a museum such as you are doing in Warrington, it is absolutely essential to have a scientific person to superintend it, so that it should be arranged according to scientific principles?—There are members on the committee who undertake that portion of the management of it. Our reason for having a skilled person as curator is, that we find it cheaper to have one who can prepare specimens than to pay for their being done as they are wanted.

1753. You are of opinion, probably, that in forming a museum of natural history, the judicious arrangement of it is a very important consideration; that the mere accumulation of specimens is worth but little if you do not arrange them in a scientific manner?—No doubt; but for each department of our museum we name one of the committee who is most conversant with the subject as honorary curator. For every department of the museum there is one or more of the committee who undertakes that duty.

1754. Mr. *Wyld.*] What class of works do the persons employed in the factory borrow from your library?—I cannot speak of them separately from the public at large. I find the works most used are those of local interest and popular science.

1755. Do you find that they use works connected with their own particular branch of manufacture?—I am not aware that such books have been particularly inquired for.

1756. *Chairman.*] Have you resided long at Warrington?—I have been well acquainted with the town all my life; I have resided there for the last 15 years.

1757. Within your experience do you think the character of the population has improved?—I think the character of the population has improved very much, particularly as regards temperance.

1758. Do you think the improvement in the character of the population leads them to such habits as will tend to make them read more than they did formerly?—I should think so.

1759. You think there is a great tendency in that direction?—Yes.

1760. Therefore there is the greater urgency for the formation of public libraries?—I think so.

1761. Mr. *Hamilton.*] In speaking of general literature, do you comprise novels and works of fiction?—There are books of that sort in the library, but from what I have stated of the history of the library, there have been changes in the management of it at different periods. At one period I think a number of works of that class were introduced which are not now considered desirable.

1762. Do you think the factory population read much of that description of works, works of fiction and novels?—I think the younger readers look out for light reading.

1763. Is the kind of reading they prefer, do you think, improving?—I can only speak of one period, inasmuch as the library has been opened so short a time.

1764. In reference to the kind of literature in use among the factory population,

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tion, are you able to give to the Committee any opinion on the subject?—I am scarcely able to offer an opinion upon that subject.

1765. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Do you admit political works into the library?—We have no express prohibition of them; there is no rule on the subject, but we have in the prospectus stated that all works are admissible, not being objectionable on the score of religion or politics.

1766. *Chairman.*] You do not admit any representatives of the working class to a portion of the management of the institution, with a view to receiving suggestions from them?—No; we should be glad to receive suggestions from them, or any one, as to works desirable to be admitted.

1767. Mr. *Hamilton.*] How is the rule carried out which provides that no work shall be admitted of an objectionable character in religion or politics; who determines what is, or what is not, of an objectionable character?—In order that no offence may be given by the admission of improper works, we have a rule that no books can be admitted except on ballot, and that one black ball shall exclude any book.

1768. *Chairman.*] Have you any suggestion to offer to the Committee derived from your experience on this subject?—I would suggest that the step which has been taken in Warrington is one of the most efficient steps for the establishment of a public library, namely, the conversion into public libraries of libraries which are now almost in a state of disuse. The only mode which the Government has in its power of interfering with such libraries is by holding out inducements to their conversion to the public use, and the duplicates now in the British Museum, I think, might be very largely available as an inducement to towns to establish such libraries, if they were distributed according to the population, and in proportion also in some degree to the local exertions made for the establishment of libraries.

Jovis, 10° *die Maii,* 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Wyld.
Mr. Hamilton.
Viscount Ebrington.
Mr. Charteris.
Mr. Kershaw.

Mr. Thicknesse.
Mr. M. Milnes.
Mr. Bunbury.
Sir Harry Verney.
Mr. Disraeli.
Mr. Ewart.

WILLIAM EWART, Esq., in the Chair.

The Rev. *John Croumbie Brown,* called in; and Examined.

Rev. *J. C. Brown.*

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1769. *Chairman.*] YOU come from East Lothian?—Yes.

1770. What is your profession?—Minister of the United Presbyterian Church.

1771. It was your father who first established what are called itinerating libraries in that part of Scotland?—It was.

1772. What was the plan on which those libraries were formed?—His object was to have a library within a mile-and-a-half of every inhabitant of the country, if possible. The plan was to station a division of 50 volumes in every village and hamlet where a librarian could be found; those were removed at the end of two years, and a general exchange took place.

1773. That was the peculiar character of the libraries, that they travelled from place to place?—It was.

1774. What was the success of the scheme?—Very great; the number of readers was far beyond what at first he anticipated.

1775. How many of those itinerating libraries were there?—The greatest number was about 50.

1776. To what districts were they confined?—Those were confined to East Lothian; others were established elsewhere.

1777. Within what radius of extent?—Over an extent of country 20 miles in length, by about 14 or 15 miles across.

1778. At what date were they first established?—In 1817 the system of interchange amongst the villages first took place; in 1817 he sent from Had-

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dington 50 volumes to four different villages in the neighbourhood, and the total issues of books at those stations were, during the first year, 1,461, every book being issued upon the average seven times in the course of the year; in the second year there were 733 issues.

1779. Were they the same books?—Yes; this will bring out the importance of the interchange; in 1819 the exchange took place, and during the following year, the third year, there were issued 1,313; the novelty had gone off, but a great many more were issued than in the second year, in consequence of their being new books; in the fourth year there were 928.

1780. Again a reduction?—Again a reduction; and on every second year a similar reduction took place from that time on to the present. When the books were first sent to those villages, the number of issues was 1,461. The second year the novelty had gone off, and the numbers fell; in the third year new books came, and again there was an increased demand for them, but a demand not so great as during the first year, only those who were really desirous of information reading; in the fourth year there was a falling off, but the number was greater than during the second year, a habit of reading having been acquired by a much greater number of individuals.

1781. Mr. *Charteris.*] When the new books came, the old ones were taken away and sent to another village?—Yes.

1782. You said that you established those libraries wherever a librarian could be found. What do you mean by "a librarian;" what sort of person did you require?—An individual who was willing to take charge of the books gratuitously.

1783. A sufficiently respectable man, whom you could trust?—A man in whom we could confide.

1784. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] What was the subscription?—There was none till 1832; then a subscription was first required; there were voluntary contributions given by the readers; a drawer was placed in each division of 50 volumes, that voluntary subscriptions might be given; in 1830 and 1831, at Aberlady, there were 15 *s.* 11½ *d.* contributed voluntarily by the readers.

1785. Mr. *Charteris.*] Do you know what the number of readers was at Aberlady?—In 1830 there were 79; in 1831 there were 50; at Longniddry there was 17 *s.* 1 *d.* contributed; at Ormiston 1 *l.* 2 *s.*, and at Peston 1 *l.* 7 *s.* 6 *d.*

1786. How were the expenses of the library defrayed?—My father met a great deal of the expense originally, by engaging in the sale of religious periodicals, and devoting to this purpose the whole of the profits on these; other friends came forward and aided him with contributions; those contributions were regularly employed in the purchase of new books: the new books being kept for the use of subscribers, which increased very greatly the number of subscribers. In consequence of the adoption of this plan, the subscribers increased at the following rate: in 1821 there were eight subscribers of 3 *s.* a year, entitled to the use of new books; in the year 1822, 64; in 1823, 61; in 1824, 54; in 1825, 99; in 1826, 110; in 1827, 135; in 1828, 145; and in 1829, 162. That increase was in consequence of keeping the new books for the use of subscribers.

1787. What was the amount of the subscription?—Three shillings a year, up to that time; subsequently to that, 5 *s.*

1788. Viscount *Ebrington.*] You mentioned that there were divisions of 50 books each; how were those divisions made up; were there books on different subjects placed in each division, or were books on particular subjects contained in particular divisions?—In general one-half or two-thirds of the books were religious in every division.

1789. How was the remainder of the division made up?—Books on subjects of general interest, consisting of history, biography, and science.

1790. So that the same classes of books were to be found in each division?—Yes, but every division differed from the others.

1791. Every division was different in the individual books?—Yes.

1792. Therefore when you got new books in the use of which the subscribers were entitled to preference, those were placed indiscriminately in all the divisions?—Those were kept for the use of the subscribers at Haddington, and similar arrangements were made with the readers at Dunbar and North Berwick. The interchange of new books took place before they went into the country; the more valuable books were thus kept for a time for the use of the subscribers, and then a number of works of inferior literary merit were added to them, and they were kept in general circulation in Haddington for some time before going out into the country.

1793. Those were distributed indiscriminately over all the divisions?—Yes. The books were not formed into divisions till they went into general circulation. The new books were then formed into divisions along with a few works of inferior literary merit.

1794. *Chairman.*] What was the success of the undertaking altogether?—The success manifested itself chiefly in the increased number of issues, of which I can give the following illustrations: in 1816 there was at North Berwick a library of 155 volumes, from which there were only 20 issues in the course of the year; an arrangement was then made by my father, and the 155 volumes were given to the East Lothian itinerating libraries, on condition that he would station two divisions in North Berwick and two others in neighbouring villages. Of the 100 volumes stationed at North Berwick, there were issued during the first year 769; every volume upon the average was issued more than seven and a half times. During the second year there were 529 issues, while there had been only 50 before, so that a taste for reading was thus introduced into the district. Upon the average of six years there were 863 issues annually, every volume being read upwards of eight and a half times, upon the average. Now there are 300 volumes stationed in the districts of North Berwick and in the neighbourhood. The average annual issues of volumes is 462. The issues, however, are always greater in the first year, after a change of divisions, and the falling off in the second year is generally in the proportion of one-third.

1795. Has the scheme succeeded?—Yes, it has succeeded.

1796. But it has declined since it was first established?—It acquired its greatest magnitude about the year 1830 or 1831.

1797. If it has declined, what have been the causes of its decline since that time?—In 1832, it was proposed to a charge a penny per volume during the first year, and to issue books gratuitously the second. In consequence of this the number of readers for the first year fell off. The books were issued gratuitously the second year in order that those who were not able or not disposed to pay the penny might have an opportunity of getting the books.

1798. Do you attribute the decline to the charge of a penny?—That is one cause, out of many. A second cause was the death of my father in 1839. A third cause was the increasing infirmities, from age, of those who had first co-operated with him; and, combined with that, there was a difficulty in getting other librarians who took a deep interest in it. To show the effect of the zeal of the librarian in increasing the number of issues, I can refer to the following instances: in Cockenzie, in 1841 and 1842 there were only 21 issues, in consequence of which no division was sent in 1843 and 1844; but in 1845 a new librarian offered his services, and my sister, who has now the charge of the libraries, immediately sent a division, and 166 issues took place in the course of two years, in consequence of a new librarian being obtained. And the same thing is brought out still more strikingly in a case in Kingstone. In 1841 and 1842 there was a division at Kingstone, and there were only 60 issues in the course of the two years. In 1843 a new librarian offered his services, and he got 50 volumes. After a few months he applied for a second division, and subsequently for a third, to be stationed there along will the others. There were in 1843, 170 issues; in 1844, 215 issues; and in 1845-46, the two years together, there were 393 issues; showing the importance of the librarian taking an interest in the work.

1799. Are the Committee to infer from what you have said, that, in the first place, as an element of success in the plan, the books should be gratuitously supplied, and that, in the next, there should be a zealous librarian?—My father was desirous that the people should always pay for the books; but it was an experiment. He did not commence charging till a taste for reading had been formed. His opinion was decidedly in favour of the readers paying, and of the books being issued a second year gratuitously.

1800. Viscount *Ebrington.*] Was his opinion in favour of a payment per volume, or of a payment, making them free for a certain time of the whole library?—His opinion was in favour of payment per volume.

1801. *Chairman.*] What is the state of the scheme now?—At present there are about 20 divisions in the western district of East Lothian.

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1802. You require a zealous librarian, and without that you think you cannot succeed?—Not well.

1803. Can you command that everywhere?—In East Lothian my father found no difficulty.

1804. Mr. *Hamilton.*] What class of men are your librarians generally?—Teachers, shopkeepers, and labourers.

1805. Are they paid?—No.

1806. Have they any indirect advantage from the library?—None whatever.

1807. Then their motive is merely a desire to promote knowledge, and to do good?—To do good.

1808. Viscount *Ebrington.*] They have constant access themselves to the library?—Most of them undertake it as a means of doing good.

1809. Mr. *Charteris.*] Would it not be undesirable to make the schoolmasters librarians, as they have so much to do?—He found that the teacher, when he took an interest in it, made a good librarian. From the children being daily at school, they applied for books themselves, and carried them home. But a shop is decidedly the best place for a library, rather than a private house. A stranger can go more freely to a shop than to a private house.

1810. What class of books were they that the children applied for?—Half or two-thirds were religious; the others were works of general interest; one-sixth might be on agriculture, and the remaining sixth on history, the arts, sciences, and general information.

1811. Were they works of merit generally, such as standard works of history?—Several of them were good; I have specimens of the earlier and also of the later catalogues (*producing the same*).

1812. *Chairman.*] Was the character of the books changed?—I think latterly the books were of a superior character.

1813. Did you find that there was an advantage in intermingling general literature with religious subjects?—Decidedly. The statement of my father is to this effect: "Although the principal object of the East Lothian Itinerating Libraries is to promote the interests of religion, we have introduced a number of volumes on all branches of knowledge which we could procure, of a plain and popular nature; and this I am persuaded has made the institution much more popular, and also increased the number of religious books which have been read." Taking 1830 as the year when it had acquired its greatest efficiency, the whole of the books were issued upon the average nine times in the course of the year; some were issued 18 times. During the two years some were issued 30 times. There were at that time 2,000 volumes in general circulation throughout the country; the total number of issues in that year was 10,000, every volume in the library being issued, upon the average, five times in the course of the year.

1814. What is the present state of the scheme; how far is it succeeding at present?—At present there are only divisions in the western district of the country; there are about 20 divisions, and the books are still well read.

1815. Is it on the decline, or is it on the rise, at present?—On the decline.

1816. And the causes of that decline are those which you have assigned?—Yes; the payment of the penny, the death of my father, and the age of those who co-operated with him from the first, and the difficulty of infusing a similar enthusiasm into new librarians.

1817. Mr. *Hamilton.*] With regard to co-operation, do you find it difficult to obtain co-operation from the rising generation?—No, I think there is no difficulty; but there is no one to take the general charge of the divisions but a lady, my sister; I have not myself been residing there, except occasionally, during the last fifteen years.

1818. *Chairman.*] Has this system been imitated extensively in other parts of Scotland?—In some other districts it has been introduced; it has been introduced into the Highlands by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and in Peebleshire, at present, by the Free Church.

1819. And successfully?—It was only last week that application was made to me from one of the presbyteries of the Free Church for a few divisions, and I lent them six divisions.

1820. Mr. *Charteris.*] Did the presbytery apply for any particular class of books?—No.

1821. *Chairman.*] What effect do you consider was produced by this system on the general character of the population?—The general effect was good; I am not able to bring forward cases of decided conversion or moral reformation; but everywhere people spoke favourably of the effect of stationing a library in a village.

1822. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Was there a great demand for the books for reading? —Very great; often there was not a single book to be found in the libraries.

1823. *Chairman.*] Was the moral and literary character of the neighbourhood improved by this system?—There was no marked change.

1824. Did they become more orderly and more fond of learning?—I am not prepared to say that they became more orderly, but they did not become more disorderly.

1825. Did they become more fond of reading?—Much more fond of reading.

1826. Then it had the effect, probably, of diverting them from more injurious pursuits?—Decidedly.

1827. Therefore it had a good effect upon the moral character of the people? —Yes; and the first mechanics' institutions at Haddington and at Dunbar originated, I believe, out of the interest excited by those libraries.

1828. Do you think it is a plan of which the machinery would be too cumbrous to be successfully adopted in other parts of Scotland?—It is not, if you can get an individual to take such enthusiastic interest in it as to devote his whole energies to the management of it; I may mention that Lord Brougham investigated the subject thoroughly many years ago, and Mr. Douglas of Cavers did the same. They instituted particular inquiries into the subject, and they both expressed themselves highly satisfied with the explanations given by my father. Lord Brougham urged him to abandon his other avocations, and give himself entirely to this enterprize; and Mr. Cavers has recorded his opinion of the scheme, in his work entitled "The Prospects of Great Britain," in the following terms: "Amoug all the various openings for liberality, none appears more satisfactory than the plan of itinerating libraries; at all events, it must, sooner or later, be generally adopted"; but to carry it through it requires an individual taking a very deep interest in its success.

1829. Has the plan been imitated in foreign countries at all?—I published a translation of a memoir by one of my relatives upon the subject, in German and in French, and had them extensively circulated; but I am not aware that the plan has been adopted in either country. Whilst I was in Russia I commenced the scheme there, but had to leave before I could carry it fully out; in the United States a very deep interest has been taken in it; in the Highlands and islands of Scotland it was undertaken by the General Assembly; their Committee, appointed to visit all the stations, reported very favourably of it.

1830. To what extent has it been carried in the Highlands and islands of Scotland?—I am not able to say. I am only able to give the report of the deputation appointed to visit the stations in regard to the state of the libraries, and the effects they produced.

1831. What is the result of that?—Approving highly of them.

1832. Do you consider that this scheme is in a state of advance in the Highlands and islands of Scotland?—Not at present.

1833. Is it declining there also?—I believe so.

1834. From the same causes that you assigned for its decline in East Lothian? —I am unable to say.

1835. In Peebleshire are those libraries on the rise or the decline?—Into Peebleshire they have only been introduced last week.

1836–7. Have you any further information to give the Committee upon this subject?—I stated that the only difficulty in carrying it out would arise from the difficulty of finding an individual of sufficient energy to carry the plan into effect. Just as I was starting in the railway train to come to London, a pamphlet by Mr. Edwards, of the British Museum, was put into my hands. He has suggested one mode, by which it appears to me that the scheme could be quite practicable. He states that the number of duplicate copies of works in the British Museum, amounts to at least 52,000, and he considers that "the greater portion of these duplicates could not be more usefully employed than in the formation of a Metropolitan Public Lending Library, which, if thus formed, would be free from the objections sometimes urged against the practice of lending the books of a great Public Library." If the British Museum is a National Library, by means of railways the whole community could have the advantage of

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of it. The plan that occurred to me in travelling up from Scotland is this: if there was a lending library, divisions might be formed of 50 volumes and offered to parties in all parts of the country on the payment of 25*s.* Then those being returned at the end of the year, other divisions might be formed, and those new divisions could go to places returning the first, and the first might be sent to places from which new applications came. In this way the whole country might have the advantage of such books.

Monsieur *William Libri*, called in; and Examined.

Monsieur *W. Libri.*

1838. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you have been very conversant with the libraries of Europe, and especially of your own country, Italy?—Yes.

1839. In what capacity have you had opportunities of inquiring into the state of the European and Italian Libraries?—Sometimes I have examined public libraries for different works; but in France and in some parts of Italy I have examined them by virtue of offices I have held, and also under special commissions from the Government.

1840. In what commissions have you been employed?—In Italy I have been the honorary keeper of the library of a scientific society established in Florence, and called the Reale Accademia dei Georgofili of Florence.

1841. You have also been employed in other countries?—Yes; in Italy I have had some official connexion with the library of the University of Pisa. In that university (in which I have been an acting professor, and of which I am still an honorary professor) the professors have, to a certain extent, to direct, or rather to assist, the operations of the librarians: and in France I have been a member of the commission appointed by the government for the publication of a general catalogue of manuscripts in France, and in that capacity I have inspected a great many public libraries in the provinces of France.

1842. The Committee wish to begin with inquiring into the libraries of Italy; can you give them information generally of the number and extent of those libraries?—The Committee know that Italy is divided into many states, so that it is very difficult to give a general idea of the administration of all the libraries, but I think that the largest libraries in Italy are the following: the Library of the University of Turin, the Library of the University of Genoa, the Library of Brera, and the Ambrosiana at Milan, the Capitolare at Verona, St. Mark's at Venice, the Ducal Library of Parma, the Ducal Library of Modena, the public library at Ferrara, the Municipal Library of Ravenna; two libraries at Bologna, the Pontifical and the Municipal; two large libraries in Florence, the Magliabecchiana and the Medicean; two libraries at Rome, the Minerva and the Vatican; one at Naples, the Royal Library; and one at Palermo, the Municipal Library; those are the largest, or at least the most important; but in almost every town of Italy there are public libraries.

1843. Are those libraries freely accessible to the public?—Yes.

1844. Anybody can go in and ask for a book and receive it?—Yes; but limited by the necessity of applying for permission to read the forbidden books, over which the church and the government keep a strict watch. Every person can go into the library, but cannot ask for every book; for instance, the Florentine History of Macchiavelli is forbidden, so that it is necessary to apply for permission to get that book; and there are a great many others to which the same restriction extends.

1845. But with regard to all ordinary books free accessibility is allowed?—Generally.

1846. Are any of those libraries lending libraries; are the books lent out to individuals to read at home?—Generally, the books are not lent, but the libraries of all the Universities in Italy lend books, as the University of Turin, the University of Pisa, &c.

1847. Are the public admitted to read in the University libraries of Italy?—In every one.

1848. The privilege of reading is not limited to the students of the Universities?—No.

1849. Is that a universal rule in all the Universities of Italy?—In every part where I have been I found it so; but books from the University libraries are lent out only to professors, not generally to students or graduates of the University.

1850. Have you been long in England?—Only a few months.

1851. Are you aware whether there is in England an equal facility of access to the public libraries with the access which exists in Italy?—The access in Italy is much greater for the public, but I do not think that in the British Museum there is any difficulty for learned men.

1852. Even in the British Museum is there equal access for the public with the accessibility which prevails in Italy?—No, not for the public.

1853. Mr. *Hamilton.*] What is the difference?—In the British Museum I found it necessary to apply for some permission, or to get a letter of recommendation; in Italy it is not necessary at all, at least for common books; for rare books and manuscripts generally it is necessary to be in some way introduced, but not for common books at all.

1854. *Chairman.*] Is it necessary in France, or in any countries of the Continent, which you have visited, to have that sort of introduction which is requisite in the British Museum?—No, not in what they call public libraries; but there are very large libraries on the Continent, and some of the most important in Italy, that are not public at all. The private library of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, and the library of the King of Sardinia, are very large libraries; it is necessary to get some introduction to be admitted there.

1855. But generally in Italy and on the Continent, public libraries are far more freely accessible than in England?—Yes.

1856. You have not been in the provinces of England?—Very little.

1857. Do you know at all whether there are any public libraries in the provinces in England?—No, but I have heard that there are more difficulties in getting books in the provinces of England than in London.

1858. Mr. *Milnes.*] Have you studied much in the Vatican Library?—No; but I know that the regulations there present many difficulties; and in the Vatican there is this peculiar difficulty, that only certain persons are generally intrusted to copy books and to make extracts; so that if a stranger, for instance, goes there and applies for some manuscripts, he will not be allowed to get the manuscript, but only a copy; which must be made by means of some persons whom you are obliged to pay for it.

1859. You are not allowed to copy yourself?—No, all the copiers are appointed by the Government.

1860. Is the whole collection of the Vatican Library accessible to a literary man who has recommendations?—No, there are reserved parts that nobody is allowed to see, nor to get a single book from; especially some of the most ancient manuscripts, and also the archives.

1861. You would think it very important, therefore, if the treasures of the Vatican Library could be made open to the literary world?—Yes, indeed, with certain reservations. It would be inexpedient to give all those ancient manuscripts into the hands of every man; but still the difficulties now are certainly too great for literary men.

1862. Do you attribute that exclusion and that difficulty to a particular care for the manuscripts, or to the jealousy of the ecclesiastical system?—I think that the jealousy of the ecclesiastical system is one of the greatest reasons that prevent free communication. But I think also that certain persons are interested in keeping the manuscripts to themselves, that they may be paid for the copies or the extracts that may be required. Vatican transcribers form a sort of official corporation, as it was at Constantinople before the fall of the Byzantine Empire, so that they prevent every one from perusing freely the manuscripts themselves.

1863. Do you think that it is safe in a public library to allow persons to see important manuscripts?—I think it would be inexpedient to allow every person; it would be perhaps dangerous.

1864. You are aware, no doubt, of the case of the Longus, at Florence, which Paul Courier was accused of having destroyed?—Yes.

1865. Do not you think that cases of that kind might occur where there was no particular person appointed to copy the manuscripts?—I think it would be better that particular persons should be appointed to copy the manuscripts, but that learned men should be allowed to read and examine for themselves, and not have to pay a heavy tax, as it is at Rome; because it is a very heavy expense to pay, for instance 40*l.* or 50*l.* for a copy of some sheets.

1866. *Chairman.*] Do you attribute good results to the literary character of Italy, from this power of free access to public libraries?—Yes, I think so.

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1867. Do you also attribute good results to the general character of the people?—Yes; I think it is necessary to make a distinction. The largest libraries in Italy—or the most important, are, for instance, the Vatican at Rome, the Medicean at Florence, the Ambrosian at Milan, and the Library of St. Mark at Venice. They are filled with precious manuscripts, with ancient books, and so on, but they want modern books and useful books; so that although they are so accessible they are not useful to the people at all.

1868. Are there no means adopted of adding modern books to those existing libraries in Italy?—The libraries of the universities get modern books for the students and for the professors, &c., but the largest libraries have very few modern foreign books. They get the books printed in the same state, because every author is obliged to give two or three copies to the public libraries of the state; but they have no money to purchase foreign books.

1869. Is it the practice in all the states of Italy that an author is obliged to give a first copy of his work to some public libraries?—Yes.

1870. To how many libraries?—To two or three.

1871. To two or three libraries in each state?—Yes; but it is limited to the state in which the man is living. So that a book being printed in Florence or in Pisa, the author or the editor must give three copies to the public libraries at Florence and at Pisa, but not to the libraries at Rome or any place elsewhere.

1872. In consequence of that regulation there must be constant additions of modern works going on in those libraries?—Yes.

1873. Viscount *Ebrington.*] But only of those modern works which are published within the same state?—Yes.

1874. Are there adequate funds for keeping up a supply of other books in the libraries of those states?—They have very little money; the municipal bodies have given some money for the increase of the collections in municipal libraries. At Palermo I think they have 300*l.* to get modern books; but generally they have very little money.

1875. *Chairman.*] How far are those libraries supported and assisted in obtaining a supply of books by the Government?—Generally they have a certain sum of money allowed to buy books. The largest part of the money is employed in paying the keepers and the persons employed in the library; but there are also many legacies and donations of books, and of money also.

1876. In the towns do the municipalities support the public libraries?—They support the municipal libraries, not those of the government. Generally in every town there are municipal libraries; but the government has in every part the superintendence and direction.

1877. Are there many municipal libraries in the states of Italy?—Yes; I do not know a single town without a municipal library.

1878. Are the municipal libraries freely accessible to the public?—Quite so.

1879. Will you give the Committee an instance of a town of small population which is supplied with such a public library?—For instance, in the Romagna, in the states of the Pope; there are public libraries at Imola, at Cesena, and at Savignano, all very small towns. At Chiavari, near Genoa, and at Cortona, in Tuscany, there are also public libraries.

1880. What is the population?—At Savignano I do not know whether there are more than 4,000 persons; it is more a street than a town.

1881. In those smaller towns do the people avail themselves much of the advantage of those libraries?—There are always some persons going every day to the libraries, but more learned persons and ecclesiastical persons than common people; there are no popular libraries.

1882. Mr. *Milnes.*] Can you tell the Committee how those municipal libraries came to be formed?—Generally by donations and by legacies. Under the domination of Napoleon in Italy all the religious corporations were abolished, and so all the libraries that were collected in some of them were sold, and some brought to the capitals; many still remained in small towns and they have been added to by donations and by legacies.

1883. Then most of those municipal libraries came from religious houses?—Yes.

1884. *Chairman.*] How are those municipal libraries sustained?—By donations, and by some funds of the municipality.

1885. Do you think it desirable that, to a certain extent and under certain limitations, books should be lent out of the public libraries?—I think it would be very useful that books should be lent, but it is necessary to draw some distinction—not rare books, not books of prints, nor rare manuscripts; but I think that the danger of lending books is very much exaggerated; the danger is not so great of losing books as it is of those books remaining too long a time out of the libraries. It will be necessary to have some regulation for that purpose, to get back into the library frequently books that have been lent; but I do not think that many books have been destroyed or spoiled by being lent.

1886. You think it is a benefit to literary men and to the public, which will compensate for a certain amount of risk which must be incurred by lending books out?—Yes; if the Committee will allow me, I will state what the librarian of the University of Gottingen, in Germany, said to a friend of mine. The library of Gottingen is one of the largest in the world; all sorts of modern books are to be found there, and all the books generally are lent to every one. My friend said to the librarian, "But you must lose an immense amount of books!" The answer was, "No, it is not so large as you suppose; if you have every year about 4,000*l.* for buying books, then you put aside 200*l.* or 300*l.* for lost, or spoiled, or destroyed, but the benefit that we get from lending books is much more than 200*l.* or 300*l.* loss in that way."

1887. Viscount *Ebrington.*] Did those remarks of the librarian at Gottingen to your friend refer to losses incurred through the regulations which allow of the loan of very rare books, and costly books of prints, or merely to losses and injury in respect to the ordinary class of books which are in circulation?—I think that the librarian referred to the losses of common books: I do not know what regulations they have there for the loan of books, but I think that in this matter a discretionary power must be entrusted to the keeper.

1888. *Chairman.*] Is an author in Italy obliged not only to send a copy of his work to the great public libraries, but a copy of every separate edition that he publishes?—Yes, of every edition.

1889. As in France?—Yes.

1890. In consequence of that regulation you must have in the public libraries in Italy an immense number of duplicates or triplicates of the works of authors?—Yes. But for learned men different editions do not constitute duplicates; sometimes they differ largely.

1891. What is done with those duplicate copies?—The question of duplicate copies has been agitated very often before me upon the commissions to which I belonged. It is a great difficulty, because in every place where duplicate books have been sold, there were great inconveniences, inasmuch as under that name, in some way or another, rare and valuable books have been sold; I do not know how it is done, but booksellers and bibliomaniacs are always asking the keeper, "Will you sell books, will you make any exchange for books?" and it is certain that it happens always, that when duplicate books were sold, some very rare books disappeared. The best way to employ duplicate books, which was proposed in France and in Italy also, is to use them for lending, and to enrich the municipal libraries with them.

1892. Mr. *Milnes.*] You think that, by preferring to lend duplicate books instead of selling them, those who look after the library retain a certain knowledge where those books are, which prevents those evils from occurring to which you have alluded?—Yes.

1893. Mr. *Wyld.*] In some of the states of which you have a knowledge, duplicate books have been sold?—Yes.

1894. Have you ever found complaints from the authors or publishers of those works of such sales being made?—Yes, generally, because those books have not been well sold. Some public libraries sell very expensive books, and they are not well sold. The author or the editor offers his book to the public for 4*l.* for instance, and by those sales the public can sometimes get the book for 10*s.* or 20*s.*; so that authors and editors are opposed to that measure.

1895. Do not you think that there would be great injustice done to the authors and publishers if duplicate books in the public libraries were sold in the public market?—Yes, because the general effect of that is to depress the price of books.

1896. You have spoken of the municipal and university libraries; are there also monastic libraries, libraries attached to the religious institutions in Italy?—There are some, but over all the continent of Italy, monastic libraries were abolished by the French domination. In Sicily they remained afterwards, because the French did not go there. But still the largest of the monastic libraries were by some means or other saved, and still remain. The Minerva Library at Rome is a monastic library. It was preserved, and so were some others.

1897. Have the public generally access to the books in those religious foundations?—Yes, but more so to the municipal libraries than to the monastic.

1898. Can you obtain ready access to the monastic libraries?—Yes, but they are not quite free.

1899. What form is it necessary to go through to get access to the books in those libraries?—Every learned man is always quite sure to be introduced there. Some of them are quite open to the public.

1900. Mr. *Milnes.*] Do you think that there is any large amount of books now in the monastic institutions and religious houses in Italy?—There are some. For instance, the Minerva at Rome is one of the largest libraries of Italy. So the library of Monte Casino has one of the most important collection of manuscripts that I know.

1901. *Chairman.*] Do you think it essential that in every country there should be a certain number of large libraries, in which every book that is published of every description should be deposited?—I think so.

1902. Even from the largest book to the lowest book?—Yes, I think so; it is quite necessary for the inquiries of learned men.

1903. You think it is important that you should rather have a superfluity than a deficiency, looking at the future materials for history?—I think so.

1904. Are the libraries in Italy open in the evening?—I do not know if they are at present; when I left Italy they were not.

1905. From what you have stated it appears, that though you have large and extensive libraries in Italy, they are not very available to the working population of the country?—I think they are not. Till late years the common people did not profit by those libraries; but I have heard that there are at the present time free associations to do it; but I am not quite well informed about that.

1906. Are there any such institutions as communal or village libraries in Italy?—I think not.

1907. Do not you think it of great importance that for every library there should be a good catalogue?—Yes, certainly; I think, from my own experience, and from what I have learned from every man who is desirous to work in the public libraries, that the first thing that is required is a good catalogue.

1908. Can you give the Committee your opinion of the nature of the catalogue which you think most desirable?—I have seen many catalogues in many libraries; in Italy, generally speaking, the catalogues are made by classification; by division into classes, dividing them, for instance, into theological, scientific, historical, and poetical books, with subdivisions; but for many books, it is difficult to ascertain what class they should be put into. The same book would have to be put into several different classes; for instance, the Georgics of Virgil must be put into the Poets, and into Agriculture, &c. The consequence is, that two sorts of catalogues were necessary, one arranged by classes and another by alphabetical names. Every one is now desirous to go to the alphabetical catalogue, and not to the classified catalogue; but in the alphabetical catalogue it is necessary to make as many references as possible, because without that, the alphabetical catalogue is of very little use. The best catalogues that I know in Italy are those of Turin and of Parma, and of the Magliabecchian Library of Florence; I recollect that the last has a large duplicate catalogue, by alphabetical names and by classification.

1909. You think the best plan is a combination of the alphabetical and the classified system?—It would be, certainly, very useful, if it was possible to get both; but for a large library it is very difficult; after you have made a large catalogue divided into classes, every day you are buying books, and it is necessary to put new books in between the first and second, and between the second and third, and to alter the order of the classification.

1910. You have had great experience of the libraries of France?—Yes.

1911. Have you any evidence to offer to the Committee upon the subject of the libraries of France, as compared with the libraries of Italy?—The libraries in France are not so numerous as in Italy. In the provinces there are very few libraries; there are some, but not so many as in Italy. In Italy every small town has its library. In France there are some in the chief towns of the departments, but still many of those are of less importance. The most important are those at Paris, and they are very valuable libraries, but some of those are not

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kept in good order; and the catalogues that have been made during the last hundred years are not useful at all. For a long time the books were not in their proper room, so that it was very difficult to find the books that were in the library. Perhaps the greater accessibility of those libraries, as compared with the less accessibility of the British Museum, has done something to produce the disorder in which they are. The order in which the books are put in the British Museum is so admirable, that I have never seen anything equal to it in any part of Europe. Perhaps some large libraries of Germany, such as those of Munich, of Berlin, and of Göttingen, come nearest to it; but it is quite impossible to find every book you apply for in any library on the Continent, that I have seen. If you apply for 10 or 12 books, you are certain to find that one or two are missing; but in the British Museum you may apply for 100 books, and you may get them all in three minutes. I think the good order in which the library is kept may arise, in some way, from the less accessibility.

1912. In the libraries on the Continent the books are not in such good order, but they are more accessible?—Yes.

1913. Viscount *Ebrington.*] Do you mean that they are not in good order because they are more accessible?—Yes.

1914. Mr. *Wyld.*] Has the library at Göttingen a good catalogue?—Yes; but they are much increasing their library. The accessions every year are so numerous that I do not think they can get a complete catalogue for so many books.

1915. Do you know to what period the Göttingen catalogue is completed?—I do not know; but I know that in the Royal Library at Paris, they began to publish their catalogue in the year 1739, and it is not yet finished.

1916. *Chairman.*] Do you think it better to have accessibility without good order, than good order without accessibility?—No, I prefer good order.

1917. Would you, at the expense of the risk of losing somewhat of good order in the books, allow the public the advantage of free access to the books?—I think it would be necessary in every great library to make a selection, and to allow some books for the public that might be spoiled, and all the bulk of the library to keep carefully.

1918. You would draw a distinction between a reading library and a library of reference?—Yes.

1919. And you would make a division of the nature you have described in the library?—Yes.

1920. Do you think it very desirable, with a view to the future histories of nations, that there should be provincial libraries, in which all the local subjects of interest, and topics connected with natural history and geological formations, and the local history of particular districts should be comprehended, so that you might have as it were a kind of topographical libraries in different parts of the country?—I think it would be very useful, but probably it would be a very great expense to do it generally, because all those books, in my mind, ought to be in the first library in the country. What I supposed to be possible was, that in the provinces there might be municipal libraries chiefly for the workmen, for the common people, and for some learned men also, but I do not know whether there would be money enough for the other.

1921. Supposing they had means, do not you think it desirable that the local histories should be preserved in those places where the facts which are recorded or referred to have occurred?—Yes; it would be very useful.

1922. Viscount *Ebrington.*] The Committee have it in evidence that in France it is the practice of the Government to subscribe to very expensive works, taking a certain number of copies of them, and in that way giving compensation to authors for the copies which they are bound by law to furnish to the different public libraries; is anything of the same sort done in Italy or in Germany, as far as your experience informs you?—In Germany I think so, but in Italy the public libraries are not so rich as to do so, but the Government does so. The King of Sardinia, for instance, from his own money, and for his own library, subscribes to very large works. In France they do so, but they have not money enough; the subscription fund is no more, I think, than 8,000 *l.* for all France, so that when they have subscribed to five or six very large works, travels, and books of natural history, they are stopped for five or six years.

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1923. Do you approve of that plan of Government subscriptions towards expensive works?—Yes, if the subscription fund were always well employed. I have heard, but I have no personal experience of it, that sometimes it was done by recommendation and by influence. I have heard also that very important and valuable books have not got any subscription, but I have no personal knowledge of that.

1924. It is obvious that the hardship upon authors of furnishing a definite number of copies to certain public institutions must vary very much with the character of the work which they publish?—Yes.

1925. Five copies out of 5,000 is a small proportion of a cheap work, but five copies out of 500 of some very expensive book which has a small sale is a heavy tax upon the author?—Yes; especially in the case of works with illuminations, &c. I have heard many curious stories upon this subject; I have been told that with those large and expensive books the editors sometimes do bad copies on purpose for the Government, for the public libraries, and afterwards those libraries are obliged to buy the same works that they received from the editors.

1926. Have you ever considered the subject, and are you prepared to make any suggestion as to the best course to be taken in this matter, keeping in view the interests of the public and justice to the author?—From what I have heard and what I know by my own experience, I believe that at least the half of those books are lost; they come generally in such a way, by pamphlets, by sheets, by maps, &c., from many towns, and even from villages, that it is impossible to get them into proper order without very large expense, so as to derive the full benefit of the law. It has been stated that at least 25,000 volumes are missing in the Depôt Legal, as they call it, of France. The Depôt Legal is the establishment to which the editors are obliged to consign those copies. I think that it would be much more advisable to keep only a single copy of every author; for in that way they might be preserved. The editor, for instance, should be under an obligation to give, not every pamphlet or every part of a work divided into numbers, but to give it in volumes in the proper order; at present, in the large towns, at Paris, for instance, those books are not useful at all; and if anybody applies for a modern book, printed in Paris in the last year, he is almost sure not to find it in the National Library; and that is so with newspapers, &c.

1927. Mr. *Wyld.*] Do not you think that great injustice is done to an author by his being compelled to give those copies to the public libraries?—I think so. On the Continent, especially where the Governments watch all publications with great jealousy, they are obliged to apply for some copies, because those copies are supposed to bind the authors to keep within some limits.

1928. *Chairman.*] They bind and restrict the writings of the authors?—Yes; and so every person sending a book is in some way obliged to give his name and address; if that were not done, many bad books, independently of political matters, obscene books, &c. would be printed, and the Government would not be able to know by whom those books were published.

1929. Mr. *Wyld.*] Is the sending of the book for the purpose of censorship; not for the purpose of giving information?—No; the censorship is before the printing of the books; but after the book is printed the editors are obliged to send one or two or three copies, that the Government may see whether the book corresponds to the manuscript which has been sent for the censorship.

1930. Do you think that the compulsory giving of those two or three copies tends to the diffusion generally of information?—In some way; but I think that certainly of those three copies, one at least, and perhaps two, are frequently lost.

1931. You have had great experience in public libraries; you have told us that a large accumulation of modern books takes place before the public can look at them; how long is it before those books are obtainable for general reference by the public, say in the library of Paris?—It is difficult to answer generally to that question, but certainly, for small books especially, many years must elapse before they will be placed for general reference; but they tell me that if some important and very well known person applies for some important book, after two or three applications they are able to find it; though before they have said, "We have not got it." But a great many of the common small books are lost.

1932. Do

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1932. Do you think that a large proportion of the small books which are given to public libraries are lost or destroyed?—I think so.

1933. In the municipal small towns in Italy have they in the libraries any illustrated works?—Yes, chiefly because they are always receiving many books, and some have been presents by donations.

1934. Do you find any improvement in the cultivation of art amongst the people where those libraries containing illustrated books exist?—I do not know that in Italy the people are very desirous of that.

1935. Take any town in Italy where there is a good illustrated library; is the tone of taste high in that town?—I know three or four special libraries of that kind, but they are more frequented by the students of pictures and the fine arts than by the people. Fine pictures and fine monuments are so frequent in Italy that the people go more to see a good picture in a church than in a library.

1936. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Do you attribute the taste of the Italians for the fine arts more to the abundance of monuments and pictures than to their opportunities of inspecting works in the libraries?—Yes.

1937. *Chairman.*] You have observed the rapid circulation of new publications in this country?—Yes.

1938. Have you anything of that kind in Italy?—Before the recent events, generally speaking, the Governments were suspicious against it; but there have been two or three attempts in that way which have succeeded very well. There is, for instance, what they call "The Popular Library," a collection of popular works published at Turin. This was so well received, that four or five months after the publication many thousand persons subscribed for it; but the Government stopped the publication; they were astonished at seeing so large a number of subscribers.

1939. But those works which are circulated so extensively all through this country have not the same extent of circulation in Italy, such as illustrated works of modern date, and such publications?—Not so much; but things are changing now; for political life in Italy has spread over that country, and political publications were much more read in Italy in the last year. But it is quite the result of circumstances.

1940. But the Italians have derived their information respecting the arts and their taste rather from the remains of antiquity than from modern publications? —I think so.

1941. Mr. *Charteris.*] Do you think that at the present moment there is a very strong feeling of taste for art in Italy?—For sculpture.

1942. But not for painting?—Not for painting; I do not think that Italian painting is in a very good state; but sculpture is in a very good state.

1943. *Chairman.*] Comparing the libraries of Germany with those of Italy, how do they stand?—To the best of my knowledge, the libraries in Germany are much more adapted for the people and for learned men than those of Italy; those of Italy are, generally speaking, very rich in all rare books, in ancient manuscripts, &c., generally referring to the time of the foundation of the library; but since that time they have not received any great increase by the addition of modern books.

1944. The libraries of Germany are of a more modern character?—Yes, particularly the libraries of Prussia, Hanover, and the Rhenish provinces. The most complete libraries that I know are that of the British Museum, the library of Berlin, that of Gottingen, and that of Munich, because they have at the same time rare and valuable books and useful books. In Italy, generally speaking, there is a want of useful books.

1945. Have you been in Belgium?—In Belgium also the library at Brussels is very useful.

1946. The character of the books there is more fitted to modern wants than in Italy?—Yes.

1947. Mr. *Bunbury.*] In the large establishments of the Jesuits in Italy, were not most of the large libraries open freely to the public?—Some of them; but I do not think that they were exactly open to the public, but to many persons who were

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were recommended and introduced. For instance, at Palermo, in Sicily, there is a library of 40,000 volumes; before the last Revolution it was open to almost every one, but I don't think it was what they call properly a public library; but after the Revolution the Jesuit library was publicly open, because the Jesuits are no more there.

1948. But in point of practice, it was easily accessible to every one who wished it, for a literary purpose?—Yes.

[The following Letter was subsequently addressed to the Chairman, by *M. Libri.*]

To *W. Ewart*, Esq., M.P.

Sir, 7, Garway Road, Bayswater, 19 May 1849.

Availing myself of the kind permission you have been good enough to allow me, as Chairman of the Select Committee on Public Libraries, I proceed to furnish additional particulars to those I have given *vivâ voce* in my evidence, and which my ignorance of the English language necessarily rendered imperfect. The honour that the Committee has conferred upon me in summoning me before it, and the indulgence with which all the members who compose it have listened to the defective verbal explanations I gave, prompt, and indeed impose on me, the duty of answering in a more satisfactory manner the expectations of the Committee. I beg to thank you, Sir, and the Committee, therefore, for allowing me to do so in writing.

I do not think that the Committee desires that I should furnish a detailed historical and bibliographical account of the libraries of France and Italy. Such a report, which I would willingly undertake if it appeared to you useful to the labours of the Committee, appears to me very indirectly connected with the object of your inquiries.

If I have correctly understood the questions addressed me, the attention of the Committee is chiefly directed to the following points that I shall treat, supporting myself principally by examples derived from the libraries that I have had an opportunity of frequenting.

The Committee appeared to me interested on one main point, with which are connected more or less intimately all the other questions submitted to me. This question is a very important one, and if I mistake not, is this: What are the best means to be adopted to provide, by the aid of various collections of books, and by metropolitan, provincial, and municipal libraries, for the moral and intellectual wants, the education and amusement of the different classes of the population?

It is a noble question, which a great country alone can solve, and until the present moment has not only not been solved, but which before coming to England I had never seen proposed.

As I have already stated in my evidence, in my opinion, and as all educated men agree, it is necessary that in a great country there should be at least one library, in which one may expect to find, as far as it is possible, all books which learned men, men who occupy themselves upon any subject whatever, and who cultivate one of the branches of human knowledge, may require to consult. Of these, there is nothing useless, nothing ought to be neglected; the most insignificant in appearance, those which on their publication have attracted the least attention, sometimes become the source of valuable and unexpected information.

You know better than me, Sir, that it is in the fragments, now so rare and precious, of some alphabets, of some small grammars published for the use of schools about the middle of the 15th century, or in the letters distributed in Germany by the religious bodies commissioned to collect alms, that bibliographers now seek to discover the first processes employed by the inventors of xylography and of typography. It is in a forgotten collection of indifferent plates, published at Venice by Fausto Verantio, towards the end of the 16th century, that an engineer who interests himself in the history of the mechanical arts, might find the first diagram of iron suspension bridges.

Nothing should be neglected; nothing is useless to whoever wishes thoroughly to study a subject. An astronomer who desires to study the motions peculiar to certain stars, requires to consult all the old books of astronomy, and even of astrology, which appear the most replete with error. A chemist, a man who is engaged in the industrial arts, may still consult with profit certain works on alchemy, and even on magic. A legislator, a jurisconsult needs sometimes to be acquainted with the laws, the ordinances which derive their

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origin from the most barbarous ages. But it is particularly for the biographer, for the historian, that it is necessary to prepare the largest field of inquiry, to amass the greatest quantity of materials. That is not only true as regards past times, but we ought to prepare the materials for future students. Historical facts which appear the least important, the most insignificant anecdotes, registered in a pamphlet, mentioned in a placard or in a song, may be connected at a later period in an unforeseen manner with events which acquire great importance, or with men who are distinguished in history by their genius, by their sudden elevation, or even by their crimes. We are not born celebrated. Men become so: and when we desire to trace the history of those who have attained it, the inquirer is often obliged to pursue his researches in their most humble beginnings. Who would have imagined that the obscure author of a small pamphlet, "Le Souper de Beaucaire," would subsequently become the Emperor Napoleon, and that to write fully the life of the execrable Marat one ought to have the very insignificant essays on physics that he published before the Revolution? Nothing is too unimportant for whoever wishes thoroughly to study the literary or scientific history of a country, or for one who undertakes to trace the intellectual progress of eminent minds, or to inform himself in detail of the changes which have taken place in the institutions and in the manners of a nation. Without speaking of the commentaries or considerable additions which have been introduced in the various reprints of an author, the successive editions of the same work which appear to resemble each other the most, are often distinguished from each other by peculiarities worthy of much attention.

Amateurs of Italian literature seek with avidity for the various editions of the "Orlando Furioso," and of the "Gerusalemme Liberata," published in the life-time of Ariosto and Tasso, at the present day; for these editions, generally rather imperfect, exhibit the labour of the authors, and the changes of style and composition, as well as the ameliorations of every kind introduced by these two great poets in their works. It is by comparing these different editions that we learn how those great masters worked. In the same way, in the first successive editions published of those famous "Lettres Provinciales" of Pascal, which in the 17th century struck so severe a blow at the Society of the Jesuits, are to be met with, when examined with care, remarkable differences in language and style, which reveal to us in some measure the secret of the composition of that illustrious writer.

Desired by the Committee to furnish information respecting the libraries of Italy and of France, I have chosen those examples from Italian and French literature which might be multiplied to infinity. Numberless similar ones might be found in every country. Only to borrow one single fact of this kind from the scientific history of England, it will suffice to recall to memory all the discussions which a slight alteration introduced in the life-time of the author, in one of the editions of the admirable "Principia" of Newton has occasioned. Of many books published, more or less recently, the particulars are known, and the manager of a large library ought particularly to apply himself to procure those works, which, sooner or later, will be asked for and consulted with profit by men who desire to examine things thoroughly. This takes for granted that a man entrusted with the direction of such an undertaking possesses a very extensive and profound science; it assumes also that he has at his disposition sufficient money to obtain, when the opportunity offers, all those books which are usually rare and expensive. He requires also sufficient room to place and arrange them in the best possible manner, in order that studious men may derive from them easily all desirable advantage. To a large library, to a metropolitan library intended to supply all the intellectual requirements of a nation, certainly no limits can be assigned.

It is stated that the "Bibliothèque Nationale" of Paris contains not less than 1,000,000 of printed volumes, and 100,000 manuscripts; however, all those who have pursued inquiries in this establishment know that it is far from offering to all studious men all the books that they may want to consult. Many are wanting altogether, and have always been so; others, for want of room and order, have been displaced or lost; and lastly, a very great number of others have disappeared from this library for want of surveillance. In a report presented a few years ago to the French Government, it has been proved that several thousand works have been carried off from this library, and distinguished bibliographers have not hesitated to affirm that 50,000 volumes have been taken from the "Bibliothèque Nationale" of Paris.

Without stopping here to name the rare books, the valuable editions, the typographical monuments of all kinds that a large library ought necessarily to contain to be complete, I shall ask your permission, Sir, to point out, that if there are few old books, and even few editions already published of the same work which ought not to find a place in a large metropolitan library, there are still fewer which are published at the present day, or which will be published within a certain period. The history of the past is nearly known, or at least will be, sooner or later, as far as the monuments and documents of every kind which have survived to the present day will allow. It is not the same thing for the history of the future; there everything is vague, everything is unknown, and we are absolutely ignorant, if in the most insignificant book, in a pamphlet, in a song sold in the street, in a placard intended to announce the most common events, is to be found a fact, a circumstance, a name, a date, which one hundred years hence may excite interest by its connexion in any manner, and which it is now impossible to foresee, with some singular event, or with some man become celebrated. It would be however impossible to exact from the manager of a library

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library, that with the view of preparing himself for all the circumstances of the future, that he should apply the funds at his command for the purchase of all books which appear annually in his country; besides, unless he devoted himself entirely to that, he could never know all the large and small books in published volumes, in livraisons (parts), or even in detached sheets, which might be published, not only in the capital, but in the most distant and obscure places in the provinces. It is this which, independently of any other consideration, renders the legal deposit so necessary; it is advisable also that, whilst rendering it the least onerous possible to the publishers, by exacting only the number of copies strictly necessary for the object in view, all the measures which can render it really useful and of general application, should be taken. In France it is well known that the provinces send but very few books to the "Bibliothèque Nationale" of Paris, and that either for want of room, or from want of the funds applicable to the binding of these works, or for some other motive, the books of legal deposit, and particularly the journals, profit the readers of the "Bibliothèque Nationale" very little, and are only placed but imperfectly (partially), and with great delay, at the service of the public.

I shall only add but one word on the subject of these large libraries. It is, that not only the various editions of the same work ought not to be excluded from them, but that of certain books of frequent use, and frequently inquired for, such, for example, as dictionaries or didactic works, there ought to be several copies of the same edition, of the best, that they may never be wanting for those who desire to make use of them.

The idea of establishing in different parts of the country provincial libraries, in which all books relating to the history, political, military, civil, literary, and scientific, to the natural history and to the artistic history of the country, appears to me truly excellent, and I think that these libraries could not fail to contribute considerably to the progress of knowledge in each locality.

I shall call however, Sir, your attention to two points which have struck me in visiting the libraries of France. The first is, the question of preservation.

I am inclined to think that these provincial libraries would be better preserved, and would excite a livelier interest in the provinces of England than the provincial libraries of France have done, and I cannot but acknowledge, after having been everywhere received with great favour, that these libraries of the provinces, which were generally in the charge of municipalities, have in a great number of places fallen to the lowest point of decay, and that the greatest part have literally been consigned to pillage. Without seeking the proof of what I advance, in the bookselling trade of France and England, which offers, to all who wish to procure them, quantities of books, of manuscripts, and of autographs, carried off from the public establishments of France, it will suffice to cite from an official source the most remarkable facts relating to this subject. In 1840, Monsieur Ravaisson, general inspector of libraries, was desired by Monsieur Cousin, then Public Minister of Instruction at Paris, to visit the libraries of the west of France; the report prepared by M. Ravaisson for the minister, appeared in 1841, in an octavo volume. There is not a page in this interesting report in which he does not describe the immense dilapidations committed in the libraries which he has visited. In certain towns whole libraries have disappeared. At Brest there no longer remains a single book of the 25,000 volumes of which the library of the town consisted; at Morlaix a library of 20,000 volumes has almost entirely disappeared; at Vire the public library, which already in 1783 consisted of 30,000 chosen volumes, and which had been augmented since by books from suppressed convents in 1793, was so much reduced in 1811 as not to contain more than 2,000 volumes. The neglect of some, the rapacity of others, the want of funds in certain districts (communes), who only allow 300 francs (12 *l.*) per year to the librarian, or who are not willing to pay him at all, have produced this deplorable result. It would be endless to cite all the facts of the same kind which unfortunately cannot be doubted. I shall but add two more. When, in 1808, Mons. Pazzis published his Statistics of the Department of Vaucluse, there was at Carprentras nearly 2,000 valuable manuscripts; there remained no more than 669 in 1826, when a German scholar, Mr. Haenel, visited the library of that city.

In his "Travels in France," Dr. Dibdin says that the library at Rouen after the Revolution consisted of 250,000 volumes, and some years later only contained 20,000; all the rest had been carried off. In the French translation of Dibdin's work, Mons. Licquet, librarian at Rouen, has been obliged to acknowledge the correctness of this incredible fact. It is worth observing here, to understand the atrocity of these facts, that according to regulations established in France no provincial town could sell or exchange the smallest volume without permission *ad hoc.*

I am convinced, Sir, that such inconveniences could not have taken place in England, but these serious facts are too generally repeated in France, not to justify measures of precaution or of surveillance in all countries.

Another point which cannot be entirely passed over in silence is, that these libraries, intended to collect all the books which in any way are connected with each province, present in some degree a striking analogy to the special libraries which have excited much discussion in France, and which were intended only to contain works relating to a fixed branch of human knowledge. The principal difficulty which presented itself in the realization of this project is, that there are a multitude of works which belong equally to several branches of knowledge, and which necessarily ought to be found in the different libraries. It is certain, for example, that if the Eneid of Virgil ought necessarily to find a place in a library specially poetical, it could not fail to figure also in an historical library, for no author perhaps has contributed better than Virgil to make us acquainted with the history of the ancient Italian nations. What applies to Virgil may be said with greater reason of Pliny, of Cicero, and of almost all the greatest writers, which ought to be found in their best editions, and perhaps in all, repeated in each of these proposed special libraries.

Something analogous would naturally happen in the provincial libraries. There does not exist a large collection relating to general English history, such, for example, as the "Monasticum Anglicanum," which it would not be necessary to place in each of these provincial libraries to render them complete. Several of these collections are very expensive, some are very rare, and if it was desired to form all the provincial libraries at once, the competition would raise the prices to an extraordinary height.

To determine by the aid of wise regulations, and particularly by the selection of good librarians, well paid, what are the prescribed limits, to omit nothing which may be useful to provincial studies, without yielding, however, too much to the ruinous taste of whoever may wish to form a complete special library, in which are always to be found rare and exceedingly expensive books. often very disproportionate to the profit to be derived from the perusal of those works—to form, in short, a good provincial library which does not pretend to become a metropolitan library, is the problem that the Committee will have to solve, and which, without offering insurmountable obstacles, still presents difficulties worthy of consideration.

It remains now to speak of the public libraries intended for the working classes, which offer in a convenient and comfortable building books of instruction and amusement, well selected and adapted for this class of readers, in which they may find lessons of morality as well as innocent occupation for those hours of leisure, which would, in my opinion, contribute more than can be imagined to the happiness, the morality, and to the tranquillity of this very numerous and interesting portion of the population. Never having seen on the Continent any public libraries intended specially and solely for the lower class of the people, I cannot, on this subject, offer to the Committee the result of my personal experience. What my experience has taught me is, that it ought never to be attempted to use, as a popular library, the large libraries intended in the first instance for a superior class of readers.

Among the numerous examples I could cite in support of this opinion, I shall only select two taken from the public libraries at Paris. As I had the honour to state in my evidence, all the large libraries of Paris are public, that is to say, they are open to every individual who presents himself there and asks for books; but as there are but two, the Bibliothèque Nationale (or Royale), and the Bibliothèque Sainte Geneviève, which are warmed during the long winter months, it follows, correctly speaking, that there are but these two libraries which are perfectly at the service of the public, which, from the month of October to the month of May, naturally avoids, except from absolute necessity, going to catch cold in icy rooms. I do not speak of the Bibliothèque de l' Institut, which is also warmed, but where admittance is only obtained on introduction by an academician. The Bibliothèque Sainte Geneviève is besides open in the evening, and attracts a great number of students who usually reside in the neighbourhood of this establishment, and who go there to pass some hours in the evening.

Neither the Bibliothèque Nationale nor the Bibliothèque Sainte Geneviève is a popular library. They consist chiefly of important and rare works, of books adapted for the inquiries and serious studies of well-educated men.

The second, more particularly, contains but few modern books. Both, however, offering an asylum to the idle population of Paris, they are invaded, especially in winter, by a crowd of persons mostly of indifferent education: of soldiers, of students, and even of school-boys, who go there almost solely to pass time, and to read works which may be found in all the circulating libraries. The History of the Revolution, by M. Thiers, works with plates, and all sorts of amusing books, are what they chiefly ask for. They thus oblige the administration to have several copies of works always asked for, and of comparatively little interest, for the large establishments. As soon as the doors are opened all the tables are besieged, all the rooms are occupied, by not very select readers; they find there a temperature which pleases them; agreeable reading. At Sainte Geneviève they find even light gratis, and they install themselves by hundreds in these libraries, sometimes with bread and cheese in their pockets, to avoid being disturbed, and exposing themselves to the cold by going to breakfast at the wine-shop. The result is, that at the Bibliothèque Nationale more particularly, a man who has serious inquiries to make, a scholar of reputation would not find a corner to sit down in, and it is with great trouble that four or five persons can, by special favour, gain admittance into the private room of the director. The largest literary establishment which exists in the world, the most extensive collection of books which has been formed in modern times, is thus diverted from its real and great object. Out of a million of volumes that the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris contains, nine-tenths at least have become almost entirely useless to this mass of readers, who only generally ask for what may be found in a good circulating library, and whose wants might be satisfied with 20,000 or

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30,000 volumes appropriated to these readers. On the other hand, it is impossible to exercise a proper surveillance over such a mass of readers; a great number of books disappear; others are deteriorated, rendered incomplete; sheets are carried off, to save the trouble of copying them, or take extracts, and even, as reported, to light cigars. Pencil and ink marks are made on the margins; all kinds of curious and unsuitable notes. In consequence of this influx of readers generally deficient in education, the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris would have become entirely useless to all well-educated men, for whom it was formed, if the lending of books had not existed; so that to consult the works of this library with utility, they must be borrowed. But as books cannot be lent but to a very limited number of persons, it thus happens that a great number of well-educated men find it almost impossible to profit by this great literary depôt. If concerning libraries there is one conviction firmly established in my mind, it is that the libraries now existing, the large literary depôts, cannot, without serious inconvenience, be employed for the wants of the inferior classes of society. On every occasion when it has been tried, the greatest part of the riches accumulated in the old libraries have been rendered useless, which are thus exposed to the greatest dangers, and still do not satisfy the very simple wants of the working classes, who only require in science and literature but elementary works; and who by the aid of very instructive and interesting works, it ought to be the endeavour to attract to these establishments, to divert them from those places where they too often debase themselves and destroy their moral and physical strength. I shall only add one more remark, that is, that in establishing these popular libraries, it is to be expected that books thus placed in the hands of the lower classes will frequently be worn out and disappear. To form an idea of the disappearance or destruction of books in this way, it is only necessary to interrogate the heads of some large circulating libraries in London. They will be able to tell in how many different ways the books which they circulate become deteriorated, and yet the persons who pay for reading them, generally belong to the upper classes of society, and they agree to pay for the damage that they have done.

A library intended for the working classes, and the use of which entailed no expense upon them, would necessitate rather a considerable expenditure every year to complete copies of works destroyed or damaged from whatever cause, which, although not a primary consideration, cannot be omitted in reckoning the budget of these establishments.

The complete separation of the three kinds of establishments, metropolitan, provincial, and popular, would still not exclude, if it was considered necessary, a certain connexion of hierarchy and of correspondence between these various establishments; it might thus happen that in certain fixed circumstances, the large libraries might benevolently come to the assistance of the secondary establishments by means of the useless duplicates which from various causes would be found in the large libraries; still bearing in mind, however, that the books which can correctly be called duplicates, never exist in very great number in a library, unless they come there by donations or by legacies, to which a clause is generally attached which entails them to the establishment to which they have been given. Let me be allowed to add, that in my opinion, donations of this kind could not but be dangerous to popular libraries. I know no country where more than in Italy, even the least important towns have received from private persons, donations of libraries, and yet these libraries formed by amateurs, by well-educated men, generally consist of works more or less rare, and of different degrees of importance, which may serve for the inquiries and studies of well-educated men, but cannot in any way supply the wants of the working classes. In the same proportion that gifts in money would be useful, donations of libraries formed by private individuals, would, in my opinion, be generally pernicious. For not only would they change the nature, and in some degree the intention of popular libraries, to which they would be annexed, but they would lead the librarians, who generally have a taste for rare books, to dispose of the funds confided to them, rather to increase or to complete the collections which they had succeeded to, than with a general view of popular utility.

The Committee will allow me, in conclusion, to call its attention to two principal points, which, in a large library ought, I consider, to precede all others, and which have a close connexion with each other: I allude to the catalogue and the order in which the books ought to be placed. The second question is so far connected with the first, for without a good catalogue it is impossible to keep the books in the most advantageous order, so that they may be easily found and placed at the disposal of readers; but it is also a question of room and of money. Persons who have not much frequented large libraries cannot imagine the extent of room, which by the combination of numerous purchases made by them, and the books that the legal deposit causes to arrive there, is required for new arrivals. If, for want of room, the books are not immediately placed in the best possible order, if for want of money and clerks they cannot all be at once catalogued, arrears arise which soon produce disorder and cause the most serious inconvenience. This is what has happened at the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris. The want of room and of assistants has gradually produced, since the last century, a frightful state of confusion, very considerable losses, and inconveniences of all kinds, to put an end to which efforts for a long time past have in vain been used. With respect to the catalogue and arrangement, any error is a great danger; but this danger cannot be avoided but by employing sufficient space to place the books suitably from the commencement, and by the aid of a sufficient number of clerks to proceed, as soon as a book enters the library, with all the operations of classification and cataloguing which are necessary.

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To assign sufficient space for future additions ought to be one of the first cares of persons entrusted to direct the destinies of large libraries. You will easily form an idea of these additions by calling to memory, Sir, that the number of printed volumes which have gone into the British Museum during the last 10 years, is about 200,000, and as the large room of this establishment, called the King's Library, only contains about 70,000 volumes, that is sufficient to give an idea of the space which will be required at a future day in order that this establishment may never be exposed to the serious inconveniences which have taken place at the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris.

In all the countries in which I have visited the libraries, I have heard the compilation of the catalogues spoken of. I have already had the honour of stating in my evidence that more than a century past they began to print the catalogue of the Royal Library at Paris, and that this catalogue, of which the compilation is very far from being completely finished, has never entirely appeared. For some time past the undertaking of preparing a general catalogue of the books in the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris has been taken up; but up to the present moment it has furnished no other result to the public than an extensive collection of pamphlets for and against the different systems which might be adopted. The pamphlets, the discussions which have taken place within the walls of the Bibliothèque Nationale have well nigh overturned that establishment, and I am persuaded, that if the librarians had been allowed to continue their work without being disturbed, without being tormented in every way, this important undertaking would now be very far advanced, whilst I am assured that its success is very much endangered since the administration of the library has been subjected to all sorts of attacks and criticisms. Nothing is more difficult than to arrange in the most useful manner the catalogue of a large collection of books. Without speaking of the extremely minute bibliographical researches to which it is necessary to have recourse correctly to describe old works and rare books, the necessity of pointing out by references or otherwise in the catalogue all the important facts, all the dates, all the proper names which may assist the researches of erudite and studious men, creates an enormous labour, an undertaking which requires prolonged meditation, in which incidental and unexpected questions present themselves, and follow each other with such rapidity as to astonish all men, even very well educated, who have not made a special and practical study of this subject. The public, which does not appreciate all these difficulties, is astonished and gets impatient at delays of which it is ignorant of the causes; but competent men, men who have had experience in the compilation of catalogues, know that they must resign themselves to support that impatience, and to persevere in the path which they have entered, under pain of soon seeing that public which has forced you to hasten your labours, complain of the imperfections it may contain. In the opinion of the most enlightened men, a good catalogue of a large library is the most useful work, as well as the most difficult that can be imagined. It is perhaps from the knowledge of this difficulty that Cardinal Borromeo, founder of the large Ambrosian Library at Milan, has forbidden, under pain of excommunication, that any one should ever compile the catalogue of this celebrated library. I have just noticed that the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris has not a complete catalogue, although they have been engaged on it more than a century, and that one of the chief causes of this deficiency is that the labours of the librarians have been too frequently attempted to be interfered with. Among the libraries, even not very extensive, the catalogues of which have been compiled with care, there is not one which did not require many years' labour. It is known that the catalogue of Cardinal Imperiali's Library, compiled by the learned Fontanini, assisted by a great number of well informed men, required nine years' labour, and yet this catalogue, which appeared in Rome in 1711, only consists of a single volume; but the classified tables contained in it, which are really a kind of references, and which are extremely useful to readers, were the cause of this prolonged labour.

Be good enough to excuse me, Sir, if in entering into such long details I have abused the permission which you have granted me, and have the kindness to present these apologies with my thanks to the Committee of which you are the Chairman.

I have, &c.

(signed) *William Libri.*

Samuel Smiles, Esq., called in; and Examined.

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1949. *Chairman*.] YOU reside at Leeds?—I do.

1950. Your habits have brought you a good deal into contact with the working classes of society?—A good deal; I was for eight years editor of a newspaper at Leeds, and brought very extensively into connexion with the working and the middle classes throughout the West Riding of Yorkshire.

1951. Has any attempt been made to form public libraries in that part of the country?—Yes, numerous attempts recently.

1952. Have they succeeded, or have they failed?—The popular libraries which have been formed up to a comparatively recent period, have generally been failures. They originated in this way: there was a desire felt to have a library, and so long as new books were bought, and an interest was felt in the scheme—so long as the books in the libraries were attractive, the people generally resorted to them; but so soon as the books became old and had been read out, they ceased to attract the readers, and in the end they were failures. I have a letter from Mr. Milburn, of Thirsk, the secretary of the Agricultural Society of Yorkshire, who says, "There have been three public popular libraries formed here in my recollection; two are since dead."

1953. Were those in an agricultural district?—Yes. "They were formed by gifts; but when the books were all read over, there were no means provided or available to get new ones, the only means of keeping the thing up; I fear the same thing may await our mechanics' library," just founded. I have no doubt that the same causes have operated very extensively to interfere with the success of the libraries formed up to a comparatively recent period.

1954. Mechanics' libraries have been formed in connexion with the mechanics' institutes?—Very extensively.

1955. But those were, of course, only accessible to the members of those institutes?—Yes.

1956. Have those libraries succeeded or failed?—I think they have been remarkably successful in the large towns, where the number of subscribers is so large as to enable them to purchase new books as they come out. The mechanics' institutes in the large towns, generally speaking, are not Institutes of mechanics; they are for the most part Institutes of the middle and respectable classes, and a small proportion, in some cases not so much as a half, of working men; a class superior to working men, and a small proportion of working men receiving comparatively high wages, support those institutions; generally speaking, they are not Mechanics' institutes, and it is a misnomer to designate them as such.

1957. You have a sort of union of mechanics' institutes called the Yorkshire Union?—We have. I have before me the last report of the Yorkshire Union of mechanics' institutes, which gives a very large amount of information in a tabular view, of the institutes comprised in the Yorkshire Union. I find that all those institutions have attached to them libraries; some of them have lectures, and a large number of the institutions have recently formed classes; they find the classes to be exceedingly valuable portions of the institutions, necessary, in many cases, to keep them alive. Some have mutual improvement classes, but all, without exception, have libraries. They find in the libraries a bond of union, as it were, for the institution; that it is necessary to have a library to keep the institution together.

1958. Do you know the number of books in the libraries?—I do.

1959. What is the number of books in the institutes connected with the Yorkshire Union?—There are about 60,000 volumes; on the average, about 900 volumes to each library. The Yorkshire Union consists at present of 79 institutes, and there are at present seeking admission to the union 10 or 12 additional institutes. The total number of members in those institutes is about 16,000. *Vide* Appendix.

1960. What is the character of the books in the libraries?—There are all kinds, on history, political economy, statistics to a small extent, and a large proportion of works of fiction.

1961. What are the books principally read?—Works of fiction; but a taste for a better description of literature is evidently increasing. The numbers of issues of works on mechanics, philosophy, chemistry, and science, is on the increase, and historical works have been very much read of late years.

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1962. Do you consider the taste of the people in that part of the country to have improved of late years?—I think their taste is decidedly improving.

1963. With that improvement in taste, has there been any improvement in their habits of order, temperance, and character generally?—Amongst those who read, unquestionably there has.

1964. You think that reading produces a good effect upon them?—There is no doubt of it. But the misfortune is, that but a small proportion of the population in our large towns, and probably also in the agricultural districts, read. The general deficiency that we have to encounter in our neighbourhood is the want of elementary instruction to begin with. Even after the working people have learned to read, there is a want of opportunities of keeping up their reading. In the parish church at Leeds nearly one-half of the women who are married cannot sign their own names. But it is exceedingly probable that a large proportion of those women had learned to write when they were young, but had forgotten it for want of means and opportunities of practising it as they grew up.

1965. Do you think it of great importance not only that the means of early education should be given, but that means of using the information they have acquired should be supplied by means of public libraries?—It is most important.

1966. Have many of the mechanics' institutes libraries been augmented by donations?—Some of them have been entirely formed by donations; there is one little institution at Woodhouse, near Leeds, of which I officiate as president, which has been got together by a few young men, most of them members of a teetotal or temperance society,—a movement which has effected a great deal of good by withdrawing the working people from debasing pleasures, and leaving a good deal of time at liberty, which they find it necessary to occupy in more improving pleasures and pursuits than before; a man who keeps out of the beer-house finds it necessary to occupy his time with something; some of those young men, after they had joined those teetotal societies, felt it necessary to meet together in the evening for some purpose, and they resolved to join in a small literary institution. One or two active young men connected with it went about amongst the principal people of the neighbourhood, and solicited donations of books. They have also formed classes for young men, which are at present in operation, and very efficient. Not more than 5 *l.*, as the secretary informs me, has been spent in books, the whole library now consisting of about 500 volumes, which have been obtained by presents from those able and willing to give them.

1967. You think that, as the habit of temperance extends, not only the inclination but the necessity for reading extends with it, as a means of filling up the intervals of leisure which the working people have?—Yes; there is much valuable time thus liberated; and a taste for reading has sprung up, and is rapidly extending, encouraged by the numerous cheap publications now issuing from the press; and that taste must be satisfied.

1968. From the evidence given by you to-day, and the evidence given by Mr. Dawson a few days ago, it appears that it is a mistake to suppose that the mechanics' institutes are practically institutes for mechanics, and that in point of fact they comprehend only the higher class of mechanics, and the lower order of the middle classes?—I certainly think so.

1969. The persons upon whom it is now particularly desirable to act are persons in the lower classes of society, to whom these institutes do not extend?—Yes; there is a very large proportion of the working classes who are neither connected with any literary body nor any religious body, whom society does not look after in the slightest degree, who have no literary nor mental provision, and for whom libraries, or literary food of some description, is very desirable.

1970. Do not you think that it is desirable, considering the employment by day of the working classes, that the libraries should be open in the evening?—Very important; all those mechanics' institutes in Yorkshire are now open in the evening; this little institution, of which I spoke, is open only in the evening; the working men who formed it are so occupied during the day that they cannot use it, except during the evening.

1971. You are aware that a few years ago a Bill was passed which enables town councils to levy a rate for the purpose of founding museums and collections of art?—Yes.

1972. Do you know whether that Act has been carried into effect as much as it might have been?—Nothing has been done in our neighbourhood.

1973. Do you consider it desirable that the provisions of that Act should be extended to give the power of forming libraries by means of a municipal rate in municipal corporations?—Yes; it is very important.

1974. Do you think, from your experience of such towns as Leeds, that it is probable the municipalities would avail themselves of that power?—I am afraid there would be opposition in some quarters; and probably the measure might not take effect, in the same way that the power to form galleries and museums has not taken effect.

1975. Are you aware, that in Warrington they have levied a rate for the purpose of founding not only a museum, but a library also?—I was not aware of it.

1976. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] How do you account for the little interest taken in these institutions by the working classes?—There is a fee charged.

1977. How much is that?—Three-pence or four-pence a week. Another cause of the want of support from the working classes is, that their time is occupied the most part of the day, and it is late in the evening before they get home. A measure which has recently come into operation has liberated a good deal of their time, and it is said that in certain districts the working classes have taken advantage of mechanics' institutes to a larger extent, and have recently formed classes in consequence.

1978. Do you think that the fee exceeds two-pence a week on the average?—The fee varies from a penny to two-pence, three-pence or four-pence. A penny a week, higher or lower, makes a great difference to working men. At Huddersfield, the contributions of the pupils do not pay the expenses connected with the classes in the mechanics' institute; but the managers dare not lay on an extra penny of weekly contribution, being apprehensive that the members would immediately fall off to a serious extent.

1979. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that on the Continent there are public libraries which are accessible to everybody without the payment of any fee?—I understand so.

1980. Do you think that if there were such libraries in large towns in England, there would be an inclination on the part of the people to avail themselves of them?—I have no doubt of it.

1981. Mr. *Wyld.*] What proportion of the 16,000 members that belong to the Yorkshire Union are of the working classes?—One-half may belong to the superior order of the working classes, receiving wages of from 1 *l.* to 30 *s.* a week; the inferior order form a very small proportion. In Leeds very few of the factory workers belong to the institutes; where they do, they are the exceptions to their order.

1982. Can you give the Committee any idea how many of the inferior class of the working classes are in the 16,000?—I have not the means of going into that at present; one of the half-yearly reports did contain an analysis of the members.

1983. *Chairman.*] You are quite sure that the vast majority are composed of the higher part of the working classes and the lower part of the middle classes?—Yes.

1984. Mr. *Wyld.*] Have the working classes any libraries of their own?—Within the last year or two a number of very useful institutions have sprung up, called Mutual Improvement Societies; they are principally formed by young men. One of the first things they do is to get a library together, but they have considerable difficulty in getting books. Although books are very cheap, those young men are not sufficiently rich to buy books, and consequently they have to solicit from those who are willing to give donations of books. Many of those institutions have sprung up in Leeds and the neighbouring villages, and in Barnsley and Halifax, where there are very thriving mutual improvement societies, but they labour under the disadvantage of a small revenue. They pay only a small sum, contributing something like 1 *d.* or 2 *d.* a week to the support of the classes they carry on. They have no paid teachers; they teach each other under a system of mutual instruction. And the extension of those mutual improvement societies, I think, affords fair evidence of an increasing desire for better literary culture among the working classes. There is also a very extensively organized body called "The Odd Fellows;" in Leeds they have recently formed a very efficient literary institution, "The Odd Fellows' Literary Institution;"

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Institution;" and a similar institution has been formed in Bradford within the last week. In the library of the Odd Fellows' Institution at Leeds, there are upwards of 1,200 volumes of books, including the works of the most popular authors. The books are, many of them, cheap books; they are such books as can be got, and they are obtained principally by donations.

1985. Mr. *Wyld.*] Are they upon scientific subjects?—Scientific and historical generally, and what works of fiction they can get: those are generally attractive.

1986. *Chairman.*] Is there an increasing desire for books, and for reading of all kinds, among the working classes?—There is.

1987. What obstructions are there to the indulgence of this desire on the part of the people; have they the means of buying books?—They have not the means of buying sufficient books, and the amount required to be paid to those mechanics' institutes acts as an obstacle to some extent. Most of those mechanics' institutes have their fees payable only half-yearly or quarterly, in a round sum; but in some districts they have found the advantage of taking the amounts monthly or fortnightly; as they are found able to pay 4 *d.* or 6 *d.* at a time, whereas they could not pay quarterly 2 *s.* or 2 *s.* 6 *d.*; but any amount charged is an obstacle.

1988. Do you think that, if in a town like Leeds there were as many libraries as there are in Rouen, for example, the people of Leeds would make good use of them?—To a considerable extent; but not to anything like the same extent as if our population were more educated.

1989. But it would have a tendency to increase the education of those who are not educated, and to increase the habits of reading of those who are educated?—Certainly.

1990. Mr. *Milnes.*] Have you found the literary habits of the classes of artisans to whom you have alluded very much affected by the circumstances of trade?—Yes; the members are generally diminished in seasons of bad trade.

1991. To a very large extent?—Not to so large an extent as might be supposed. During a period of great depression, two or three years ago, I heard of several mechanics' institutions having been formed in villages in the West Riding, because the people had time; and as soon as the mills began running full time again those things dropped. There were evening classes, for instance; the young men met together and formed mutual improvement classes, and so long as they had time and the mills were running short hours, those little classes went on very well; but in some cases they declined in number when the brisk trade set in again; they did not require any expenditure. It was a simple application of so much time that was liberated during the scarcity of employment in the mills.

1992. You would therefore infer that a time of very active trade is not necessarily very advantageous for literary improvement?—No, it is not.

1993. *Chairman.*] Have not great efforts been made by individuals, such as Mr. Marshall and others, in extending habits of education?—Yes, Mr. Marshall has done a very great deal for improving the comfort of his working people. He has erected baths for them, to which he gives admission by tickets as a reward for good conduct. He has also provided garden allotments. The garden is a very great privilege. He has supported, also, the popular libraries in his neighbourhood; there are two libraries at Holbeck; and he has supported those libraries liberally by donations.

1994. Do not you think it very desirable, for the interest of the factory owners themselves, that all those objects should be encouraged as much as possible among the people?—Certainly.

1995. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Is there an increasing desire for education amongst the working classes?—Unquestionably there is.

1996. Would not public libraries tend considerably to increase it?—It would to a great extent, I have no doubt, if those libraries were open to all, and furnished with sufficiently attractive books. Many of the books in mechanics' institutes are very unattractive; many of those books, for instance, which are given by way of presents, are books which nobody would think of reading now-a-days; a large proportion of them are dull, heavy books.

1997. Can you state the average issues of those mechanics' institutes?—The issues are given in detail in the tabular view of the Yorkshire Institutes. In some cases the books are issued 10 times over in the course of the year; they vary from

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from one to ten times over; in some libraries the issues are as high as twelve times the number of volumes they contain.

1998. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Have not district libraries been established by Dr. Hook, the rector of Leeds?—Yes, in connexion with the Church; those contain religious books intermingled with other books: there is also a library connected with almost every chapel, both dissenting and otherwise, in Leeds.

1999. Are those established by Dr. Hook much frequented by the working classes?—I understand that the books have had a good circulation; but I am not particularly acquainted with the working of the scheme.

2000. Mr. *Milnes.*] Are the popular libraries which you have seen mostly frequented by the upper or by the lower class of artisans?—The upper class of artisans, decidedly. I have remarked already that mechanics' institutes, so called, are not institutes for working people, but are principally supported by the middle classes, and by the higher order of skilled artisans; but the factory population, which constitutes the bulk of the population of the West Riding, do not belong to those mechanics' institutes, with a few rare exceptions.

2001. Do you think that any introduction of public libraries could infuse into that large class who, you say, take no part in mechanics' institutes, general habits of reading?—I think that by giving facilities of the kind which have been mentioned,—by establishing public libraries which should be open at all times, especially in the evenings, a taste for reading would be greatly promoted. Give a man an interesting book to take home with him to his family, and it is probable that the man will stay at home and read his book in preference to going out and spending his time in dissipation or in idleness; and, therefore, the formation of those libraries would be favourable to the improvement of the moral and intellectual condition of the working population.

2002. Do not you think that mechanics' institutes offer to that class an opportunity of intellectual cultivation of which they have not availed themselves?—Yes, to a large extent; at the same time there are obstacles; there is a payment required, and a large proportion of those people are poor, and are sometimes out of work, when they have most time to read. I do not say that they do not spend upon other things more than sufficient to pay for this.

2003. Have you generally found that literary advantages, when entirely gratuitous, have been as successful as those which required some small contribution on the part of the recipients?—There is a good deal to be said upon that question on both sides.

2004. *Chairman.*] Are you aware whether those institutions connected with the arts which have been thrown open to the public in London and other places have been very much frequented since they were thrown open?—Yes, there is no doubt of that.

2005. Do not you think that it would be desirable that if there were public libraries, they should be to a certain extent, as far as they can safely be so, lending libraries?—Certainly; in their being such would consist their chief usefulness.

2006. Are you aware whether that is the case on the Continent?—Yes.

2007. Mr. *Milnes.*] Do you think that such libraries would be made use of by that large class of the working people who, you say, do not make use of the opportunities given them by mechanics' institutes?—They would afford increased facilities by giving new books in cases where the old books had been read over and over again and exhausted; there would be an attraction in the libraries which they do not possess now; at present, a library is formed, and the members go to the books and read them, and read them out, and the attraction ceases.

2008. Do you think that public libraries, to be successful, should be supplied very freely with new books?—Yes, to be attractive, and successful

2009. Does not the extreme cheapness of modern publications bring a great many books now within the sphere of the very lowest class, if they choose to avail themselves of them?—Most unquestionably; at the same time, there are very few poor men who can form anything like a respectable library, even at the lowest price of books. The best new books are quite beyond their reach.

2010. *Chairman.*] Would it not be desirable for all classes that such institutions should exist?—Certainly.

2011. In time, is not it probable that the use of such libraries will extend itself by degrees to the poorest classes?—Yes.

2012. Mr. *Bunbury.*] As regards that large class of artisans of the lower grade who do not avail themselves of mechanics' institutes, is not it the fact that at present many are unable to read with sufficient fluency to be able to derive advantage from books?—I have stated that in my opinion one great obstacle to reading books is the want of a sufficient supply of books, and that that is the cause of many who have learned to read when they were young, forgetting even the art of reading in their adult years.

2013. *Chairman.*] But if they had books to read, they would not forget it?—No doubt the establishment of good libraries, and making them accessible to the poorer classes, would be the means of enabling them to improve themselves in reading, as well as of carrying forward their education in adult years.

2014. Mr. *Bunbury.*] From your acquaintance with the working classes, are you of opinion that they have sufficient time to be able to avail themselves of those facilities if they were afforded to them?—They have the time, if they chose to avail themselves of them. Perhaps I may conclude by referring to a letter which I received this morning from the secretary of the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes, expressing his opinion upon this subject. He says, "With respect to public libraries, I have not given the subject any special consideration; but it appears to me that the second-best gift which the Government could bestow on the working classes of this country, next to a good system of secular instruction, would be a library in every town and village of the empire. The only public libraries to which the poor have any access are those of the mechanics' institutions, and of course the fee, though very small, limits the circulation materially. Besides, the selection of books is very imperfect, and frequently injudicious, and the expenditure thereon cripples the exertions of the institution in other directions. I believe public libraries, so far from injuring the mechanics' institutions, and other voluntary efforts of the working classes to provide themselves with intellectual food, would stimulate to the creation of still greater exertions for this object, in other channels wherein Government, for some time at least, could not so well assist. With respect to the mode of carrying out such an object, I think that the best method of doing it would be by empowering every corporation to levy a rate on the inhabitants for the purpose, with a Minister of Instruction and Progress in the Government, to watch over these and similar objects, to take care that the powers so lodged did not remain a dead letter, and to check abuses. We want the interest in these matters which local management alone permits, and we want the efficiency which a central and controlling power alone confers. Where no local body exists, a Government grant would be the best plan, probably."

2015. Mr. *Hamilton.*] What is your own opinion with regard to the best means of extending public libraries?—It occurs to me that a very efficient method of extending and supporting public libraries would be, to give pecuniary aid in proportion to the contributions raised in the districts. By this means, a local interest in the working of the libraries would be ensured.

2016. *Chairman.*] As is done with regard to schools?—Exactly.

2017. And with regard to schools of design?—Yes; I think that that arrangement would work efficiently; in some towns you might not get the municipal body to lay a rate for the purpose.

2018. Is not that an unobjectionable means of assisting education, inasmuch as no sectarian question can possibly mingle itself with such an institution as a public library?—Quite so.

2019. Mr. *Milnes.*] Do you find the women among the artisans much interested in reading, generally?—I do not think they are, because, generally speaking, they are the worst educated. In the manufacturing districts there is a larger proportion of women who cannot read and write, than of men. In the West Riding, recently, institutions have been formed for the express purpose of educating young women. Some of them are very valuable institutions, one particularly at Huddersfield, where classes have been formed and conducted by young ladies of the middle classes belonging to the town. Those who have not learned in their infancy to read and write come there to be taught, and in addition they have instruction in other elementary branches of knowledge. They are taught needle-work, and I believe also cookery and domestic management. There is a similar institution at Keighley, and efficient female classes are connected with the Mechanics' Institute at Woodhouse.

2020. The intellectual condition of the females is decidedly below that of the men?—Decidedly; there is no doubt about it.

S. Smiles, Esq.

10 May 1849.

[*The following Letter was subsequently addressed by the Witness to the Chairman.*]

Sir, Leeds, 16 May 1849.

I TAKE the liberty of enclosing this year's tabular view of the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes, as prepared for the purpose of being laid before the approaching meeting of the union at Beverley, under the presidency of the Earl of Carlisle. The table gives a great deal of information as to the actual condition and progress of the institutes, the subscriptions required to constitute membership, the number of volumes in the libraries, and the issues of books yearly; and it occurred to me, that as the Yorkshire Union is particularly referred to in the course of my evidence, you might think it advisable to print this tabular view in the Appendix to the evidence. By omitting such of the columns as are deemed immaterial, the table may be comprised within a single page.

I also enclose for your inspection a specimen of the literature which the working classes of this district are getting up and circulating among themselves. This "Oddfellows' Quarterly Magazine" is supported by one Order, not the most numerous, of the Oddfellows; and every other Order of the same kind, that I know of, has its literary organ, of somewhat similar character, published fortnightly, monthly, or quarterly.

I regret to learn, from inquiry, that the supporters of the library established in connexion with the Oddfellows' Society in Leeds, already despair of being able to continue their excellent experiment, however desirous they may be to do so. In the first place they want the means of maintaining the efficiency of the library, paying the rent of the rooms, gas, &c. Those books in the library which are worth reading, and generally attractive, have for the most part been read by the members, and the attraction of the library diminishes. The weekly newspapers, cheap publications, and magazines, taken into the reading-room, now form the principal attraction to the members.

Will you permit me here to say a word respecting the Itinerating Library system, as a means of bringing the benefits of reading within reach of all classes of the population, especially in the small towns and rural districts. I had opportunities of witnessing the efficiency of this system for many years, in my native county, East Lothian. The books, issued gratuitously, were read with great avidity, although the selections made were not of the most attractive kind. Still, by keeping the books in constant circulation among the towns and villages—drafting off the books which had been read and become old in one district, to another where they had not been read and were still new—a constant attraction was kept up, and the books of the Itinerating Libraries were thus brought home to the firesides of nearly every town and village in the county. Immense benefit was thus conferred upon the population within reach of their influence. It is true the system has lost in efficiency, and the divisions of books in attraction, since the death of Mr. Brown, the founder of the system. For the system is one that requires constant supervision, and the exercise of considerable judgment. But it might be matter for consideration, whether it would not be a judicious economy to pay for such service, and to make it worth the while of a man of energy and judgment to devote his time and labour to the superintendence of the Itinerating Libraries of a district. The economy in books must be obvious at first sight. Instead of having the same books, often expensive ones, in each library of a district, it would be necessary to have only a few sets, and keep them in regular circulation—say for a year in each district or village library, removing them to the next after the readers had had time to peruse them. The attractiveness of the libraries, the cessation of which, where the libraries are stationary, is so frequent a cause of utter failure at present, would also be steadily kept up, and at a comparatively small cost.

In conclusion, I will add my conviction that the Itinerating Library system, efficiently worked, would do more, in connexion with elementary instruction, to elevate the character and improve the tastes of our town and country population, than almost any other system of operations that I know of. I need scarcely say, that I regard it as separate and distinct from the establishment of Public Lending Libraries in the large towns and cities, where the books would require to be kept stationary for purposes of consultation, reference, &c.; but I submit whether, by some means or other, the itinerating system of libraries might not form part of any intended scheme for admitting the working people of England, in town and country alike, to a participation in the pleasures and advantages which are derived from a free intercourse with the thoughts and experiences of the wise and good of all ages, and which now lie comparatively hid from them in books.

I remain, &c.

W. Ewart, Esq., M.P. *S. Smiles.*

The Rev. *Thomas R. W. Cradock*, A.M., called in; and Examined.

Rev. *T. R. W. Cradock.*

2021. *Chairman.*] YOU are the Librarian of Archbishop Marsh's Library, in Dublin?—I am the Librarian, sometimes called the Keeper.

2022. At what period was that library founded by Archbishop Marsh?—It was open to the public in the year 1707, and it might have been perhaps seven or ten years in building; there is no correct account when the building was commenced; it was founded by Primate Marsh, who procured an Act of the Irish Parliament, in the sixth year of Queen Anne, by which the premises were made free of all taxes.

2023. Has the library been considerably added to by donations?—There was one

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one considerable donation in the year 1745, made by Bishop Sterne, consisting of about 3,000 volumes.

2024. Have there been any additions since that time?—Very few since that time, comparatively speaking.

2025. Is that library freely accessible to the public; and if on any conditions, on what conditions?—It is open to the public on the sole condition of a recommendation; that is required merely for the preservation of the books.

2026. How far is it virtually open to the public at present?—It is altogether open, without any restriction but that; any one who can procure a recommendation is admitted.

2027. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Whose recommendation do you require?—That is left to the discretion of the librarian; the recommendations are principally brought from clergymen and the Fellows of the College; but that of any one well known is immediately received.

2028. *Chairman.*] What is the number of books in the library?—The number of books is 17,600; if some loose pamphlets were counted, it would make more.

2029. What is the prevailing character of the books?—The prevailing character of the books is certainly theological, if bulk is considered; and next to that I think history, particularly Irish history.

2030. Have you any very valuable books?—There are a great many valuable books. There are polyglots, beginning with the Complutensian; and there are many valuable books, works of divines. There are some books that we lock up; for example, a copy of a French Testament printed at Bordeaux, and some works on Irish history, are locked up.

2031. Has the library been extensively used by literary men?—Not extensively, if compared with other libraries in Dublin; but there is a class of students, divinity students, who have attended very generally indeed.

2032. You have a considerable number of volumes on Irish history?—A considerable number.

2033. Do you make yearly additions to your library now?—Additions are made principally by contributions, which we get sometimes by suggesting it to authors when an opportunity occurs, and sometimes by donations from public bodies, the Royal Irish Academy, who present their books regularly. Trinity College has given the works of Archbishop Usher. The Irish Archæological Society, and the Parker Society, send their publications.

2034. Out of what funds are you able to make additions to the library?—The endowment of the library is a rent-charge on an estate in the county of Meath of 250*l.* a year, Irish currency, out of which 210*l.* is applied to the librarian's salary, 30*l.* to a deputy, and 10*l.* to books.

2035. What is the amount in English currency?—I think it is 230*l.* in English currency. The librarian's salary is diminished by the poor-rate and repairs; he is accountable for the repairs of the fabric.

2036. Who are the principal frequenters of the library?—The principal frequenters of the library are students in divinity; and next to them readers of history, in particular Irish history; and next visitors of all denominations: for example, all the visitors that come to see St. Patrick's Church, come, as a matter of course, into Marsh's Library; they think it is a cathedral library.

2037. Then it is not very extensively used as a public library?—I do not think it is, compared with other libraries.

2038. Have you a good catalogue?—There is a very good catalogue, but it requires to be revised and written out again; it is a very full one, but it requires to be condensed; and in some heads it is rather confused.

2039. Can you make any suggestion of any means by which this library might be made more available to the public?—I think that if some public donation was given to it, by which the collection of theological books could be continued, by adding modern publications in that department, and also historical books, particularly Irish history; if those two classes of books were continued down to the present time, by adding everything that could be bought, I think the reading public would make much more use of it.

2040. Is not the library in danger now from its proximity to some other buildings?—In very great danger from its proximity to a druggist's factory. That building abuts against it. The rafters are not, I believe, inserted in the wall, but for a space of about 30 feet they are united.

2041. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Is it insured?—No, there is no means of insuring it.

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2042. Is there a charter of incorporation for the management of the institution?—The Act of Parliament provides for that.

2043. Does the Act of Parliament constitute any *ex-officio* Governors?—It does.

2044. Will you state who they are?—First of all, there is the Archbishop of Dublin and the Primate, the Provost of Trinity College and the Dean of St. Patrick's; and there was the Bishop of Kildare as Dean of Christ Church, but that now merges in the Dean of St. Patrick's; so that those five now become four. Then there are four Law Governors; the Lord Chancellor, the two Chief Justices, and the Lord Chief Baron.

2045. Do they meet at stated periods?—They meet at the regular annual visitation in the month of October. The second Thursday in October is the annual visitation day. If necessary, they can adjourn from time to time as they think proper.

2046. Do they inspect the library?—Those that can attend examine the state of it; and they audit the account of the money such as it is, and make suggestions with respect to books; such as writing to ask for books.

2047. Has the danger in which you state the library to be placed been brought under their notice?—Several times, particularly lately; but they have no fund in their power by which to assist, unless out of their own pockets.

2048. Are there manuscripts of any value in the library?—There are five shelves of manuscripts there; some of them very curious. There are a good many relating to Irish history. There is a version of the Bible in Irish, the first that was made, by Bishop Bedell, a very valuable book; and a book called "Royal Grants in Ireland," in the reign of James the First.

2049. *Chairman.*] Have you any further information to give to the Committee on the subject of Marsh's Library, or of the libraries of Dublin generally?—No, I am not able to give any futher information.

2050. Mr. *Wyld.*] At what time is the library open?—It is open from eleven to three every day, Sundays and holidays excepted. The holidays are a vacation from the first of August till the second Thursday, the board day, in October, and four weeks at Christmas, with no intervening holidays except Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

2051. *Chairman.*] Mr. Travers is your assistant?—Dr. Travers is my assistant. He is a most active person; he suggested all the recent improvements in the library, such as reading at a table, and having the books locked up.

Martis, 15° *die Maii*, 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Brotherton.
Sir Harry Verney.
Mr. G. A. Hamilton.
Mr. Mackinnon.
Mr. Wyld.
Mr. Bunbury.
Mr. Thicknesse.
Mr. Ewart.

WILLIAM EWART, Esq., in the Chair.

The Rev. *Henry Mackenzie*, called in; and Examined.

Rev. *H. Mackenzie.*

15 May 1849.

2052. *Chairman.*] YOU are Vicar of St. Martin in the Fields?—I am.

2053. Have you had occasion to direct your attention to the inclination of the working classes in your district to form associations for the purpose of procuring books?—Yes, my attention has been directed to that partly from the existence of an old foundation library, and partly from the active mind of one of my curates suggesting a library for the working classes.

2054. Will you be good enough to give the Committee an account of the formation of that library for the working classes?—It was very shortly after I came into the parish, last autumn.

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2055. Will you describe the district for which the library was intended?—The library was intended for one particular court: White Hart Court, in Whitcomb-street.

2056. Is that a very obscure place?—Yes.

2057. Inhabited by what kind of persons?—Quite the humble classes of society.

2058. All working people?—All working people; there are now some new houses building there, but I should not suppose that there were any but the humblest of the working people living there at that time.

2059. What kind of working people?—Mechanics and labourers.

2060. How employed?—Some having nothing but casual employment.

2061. Some of them not regularly employed at all?—Yes.

2062. Did those form a portion of their society?—I am not prepared to say that there were any members of it who had no employment at the time.

2063. In uncertain employment?—Many of them were in uncertain employment.

2064. Will you now state the formation of the institution?—It was formed by Mr. Brereton, one of the curates, who had charge of a particular Class who met on the Sunday for instruction from him. He thought that he could extend the means of instruction among them, and volunteered to give them instruction twice a week in the evening, as well as on Sunday. My object in placing them under his instruction was especially religious; his object in extending it was rather social than religious. Then, from having them around him, he contemplated the idea of forming a library that should be useful to the locality where it should be established. He took a room in White Hart Court; he then got together some books (many of us gave him books of one kind or another), and little subscriptions were made to collect such a library together; and he got together a library of about 400 volumes. The parties who used it were all of the humblest classes; they were admitted upon paying a subscription of one penny a week. The library was open two days in the week. The rules were, that one month's residence in the court was to entitle them to become members; that the curate of the district should be the secretary, and have charge of selecting books and admitting members; and that Monday and Thursday evenings should be the evenings of the meetings. Children's books were upon the list, and were to be taken out at the wish of the subscribers.

2065. What was the number of the subscribers?—In the course of three months the subscribers amounted to 143.

2066. Were they confined to the working classes?—Yes.

2067. What was the character of the books in the library?—Very mixed indeed; some religious, many historical, biographical, and poetical.

2068. Do you think it advantageous that there should be that mixture of books?—Certainly.

2069. Were they zealously read by the class of people which you have described?—Yes, they were generally eager for them. I have a letter from Mr. Brereton, which I received this morning describing his experience of the library.

2070. If you have no objection, will you have the goodness to read that letter?—"Lambourn, Woodlands, 14 May 1849. My dear Sir,—You will remember that the library which I opened in White Hart Court was intended as an experiment to try whether by that or similar means a greater degree of neighbourly good feeling might not be produced than generally exists among the working classes in towns; at the same time I hoped that it would give me access as clergyman to that large class of artisans over whom religion has apparently so little control, who being extensively (as I believe) organised into clubs or trade associations, from which all the better influence of the upper classes is excluded, are not only a depraved, but also a very dangerous portion of society. I merely remind you of this, as I think it is probable that the object of my library having been rather social than intellectual, the experiment there made may not much illustrate the views with which, as I suppose, the Parliamentary Committee is making its inquiries. And yet, so far as it went, I think my library abundantly proved that the working classes are ripe for much superior and more extensive information than that to which they have generally access at present. You have a catalogue of the books in the White Hart Court Library, and Mr. Hillstead" (a young man whom he employed to act for him) "will inform you that they were quite insufficient even for

Rev. *H. Mackenzie.*

15 May 1849.

for the limited number of members, and that frequently the subscribers would bring a list of five or six books, any of which they were anxious to obtain. The small size of the room was a very great drawback, as there was necessarily some little confusion, and you know that the working men in towns are very sensitive to any apparent disregard of their convenience (one great cause, I believe, of their non-attendance in our churches). While I was in town, and able to be present on the library nights, I was able to keep some order and arrangement, but I have been told that during the few weeks it continued in operation after my leaving town there was great difficulty in observing order and regularity, and this was one chief reason for its being suspended. Still, on the whole, I think the lists of attendance will prove that similar institutions, on a sufficiently large and well-regulated scale, would not only be useful, but very acceptable to the working classes. I think Mr. Hillstead will also be able to assure you that the books were returned in much better preservation than might have been anticipated, and that those missing when the library was suspended were few, if any. There was also very great regret expressed when it was thought better to discontinue it, and I believe that all the members will gladly rejoin it if you are able to reopen it in connexion with your new schools," (a plan which I have contemplated). "Perhaps I may also remind you that the plan I should have recommended, had I been well enough to remain at St. Martin's, would have been to have had a central library under the charge of one efficient person, and in connexion with it to have opened a reading room in each court and street, through which the books would circulate from the central depôt. I cannot doubt that when once fairly established, the inhabitants would gladly subscribe to these reading-rooms, and that they would be withdrawn from the many temptations to which London exposes them; while the central library would be a suitable place for lectures, classes, &c. You will see that the penny subscriptions of the White Hart Court Library amounted in one week to 10 *s.*; and remembering under how many disadvantages this was attempted, I think it will occur to you that there will not be much difficulty in making such institutions self-paying; especially if some of the more necessary operations of society could be connected with them, such as saving and benefit funds, especially the registration of the unemployed." That is one of the points to which I have directed Mr. Brereton's attention.

2071. Were the books in this library lent out?—They were lent out to all the subscribers.

2072. Under whose direction was the library?—The curate of the district.

2073. Was there any committee on the part of the subscribers?—It was proposed that we should have a committee of four; two honorary subscribers and two local subscribers (but I do not think that was printed in the rules), and the curate to be the president.

2074. Is the library discontinued now?—Yes, it is discontinued. We have left the books in charge of a young man who was there at the time, and he has a few applicants for them; but I have hopes of renewing it when I have built the new schools which I am about to build in the parish.

2075. Do you think that the minds of the working people are quite matured for such an institution, and that they will appreciate the facilities given them for reading?—The object is rather to cultivate their minds. It is open to some objections, and some evils did arise from it; but those were rather the abuse than the use of it. For instance, I have found some of the younger subscribers to the library difficult to get to church on Sunday, because they were reading Walter Scott's novels. I had one instance before me of that particular fact.

2076. But is it not better that they should read Walter Scott's novels than that they should do something worse?—The better is always preferable to the worse, I suppose.

2077. Mr. *Wyld*.] During the continuance of the library, did you find any moral improvement in the people?—I do not think it was open long enough; I cannot say that I did; without control there were certain abuses. Since the superintendence of the curate was withdrawn there have been several who have been very noisy when they have gone there. We find that there is a want of the superior influence which education and cultivation give.

2078. From your experience, do you not think that the establishment of local libraries like this would have a great influence upon the moral improvement of the working classes?—I think so.

2079. You have stated that they subscribe 1 *d.* a week. Is it your opinion that it is desirable that there should be a payment in order to ensure any interest on the part of those who visit the library?—From my own experience among the poor, I should say, yes. They value much more highly that which they pay for.

2080. *Chairman.*] How long was this library in existence?—Four months.

2081. Mr. *Wyld.*] Is not some portion of the parish of St. Martin's almost entirely occupied by workmen?—Yes.

2082. In those districts occupied by the working classes, do they live in very crowded lodgings?—Yes.

2083. Do you think that the establishment of local reading-rooms would take them away from the public-houses, by affording them a comfortable shelter for the evening?—Decidedly. If such institutions could be established under the influence and with the assistance of the parochial clergy, and could have associated with them a registration for the unemployed, and probably a saving fund, and probably also a deferred annuity fund, I think the result would be in every way beneficial, both in elevating the character of the working classes and improving their conduct, and ultimately very much lowering the rates, of which many of the parishioners complain.

2084. Do you think that a large portion of crime amongst the working classes arises from their want of social convenience?—I should not be prepared to say that it does immediately, but I have no doubt that that want has a material effect upon it.

2085. The establishment of those reading-rooms would afford them the means of intellectual improvement in the evenings, without resorting to public-houses and other places which deteriorate their morals?—Yes.

2086. *Chairman.*] Did the number of members of the library, during its existence, continue to increase?—Steadily.

2087. Do you think that if it had been continued and properly conducted, it would have gone on increasing up to the present time?—I think it is probable that it might; I am not sure whether the neighbourhood would not have been exhausted by this time.

2088. But it would have gone on increasing to the full extent of the wants of the population?—Yes.

2089. Mr. *Wyld.*] The library was suspended simply because Mr. Brereton left the parish?—That was the reason; I had not time to see to it personally myself. Mr. Brereton was at considerable expense about it.

2090. So far as your knowledge goes, was the experiment perfectly successful?—Not perfectly; but it was decidedly attended with benefit.

2091. How far did it pay its own expenses?—I am not prepared to answer that question, for I have never been able to get the account from Mr. Brereton, which I wished to get settled; he has chosen to bear it himself. At one time the subscriptions reached to 10 *s.* a week, and if it had gone on steadily, with a little more than that, it might have paid its expenses.

2092. Then the result of that experiment is, that even in the poorest class of society there are a considerable number of persons who would make use of books if they were attainable?—Yes; I think it would very much depend upon the way in which they were brought before them.

2093. In what way do you think they should be brought before them?—I think that if they were merely told, "There is a library there, you may go and get books when you like," there would be very few comparatively who would avail themselves of it. But if it were brought before them as a thing in which they were to take a part, and they had a sort of vested right in it, then they would take a much greater interest in it, and I think appreciate what was done more, when they felt that they had a personal interest in it.

2094. Mr. *Brotherton.*] You think it is necessary to canvass them, and to show them the advantages of the library?—Yes; I think we should have had very few comparatively if that canvassing had not taken place.

2095. Mr. *Hamilton.*] How would you propose to give them that interest, as you have stated that there was no committee?—No; it was done through the local clergy.

2096. Would you propose that there should be a committee, formed either of the parishioners or of the subscribers, so as to give the people themselves a sense of having something to do with the management?—A suggestion was made by Mr. Brereton that we should have a committee of four, two of them being honorary subscribers, and two of them being chosen from the members themselves, that they should be thoroughly and fairly represented in any committee we might have.

2097. Do you think that would be sufficient to excite their interest?—Not unless either the members of the committee or the clergy of the parish took a personal interest in it, going from house to house. The object of the parochial clergyman is to make himself, by himself or his agents, acquainted with every one in his parish, so far as he can. When we work for the social and moral elevation, as well as the religious advancement of our poor, our object is to become acquainted with them personally, to set before them what we think will be for their good. It is in that way that those members were for the most part led to the library.

2098. *Chairman.*] Has the character of the working population improved much of late years in the parish of St. Martin's?—I am not prepared to answer that question, as I have only been there a few months.

2099. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Have you many Sunday schools in your parish?—No, we have not; I have established one since I have been there; but the National School children attend on the Sunday. We have not many Sunday schools, but there will be more before long.

2100. Would it not have a good influence upon the public if the teachers and scholars in the schools were encouraged to make use of the libraries, so as to superinduce a taste for reading?—I think so, certainly.

2101. *Chairman.*] Had you any parochial library at Yarmouth, where you were before you came to St. Martin's?—Yes; and we had several lending libraries, especially for the teachers and children of the Sunday schools.

2102. What was the constitution of those libraries?—They were entirely gratuitous.

2103. Do you think they had a beneficial effect upon the people?—I was not able to trace very much effect.

2104. Were the books read much?—There were applicants for them every Sunday.

2105. How far did that differ from this library which has been formed in St. Martin's parish?—They were merely religious books lent out upon the Sunday to the teachers in the religious school. The library here has been formed with books of a very different style, and without having direct reference to religious instruction, but intended to be subordinate to that.

2106. Do you think it desirable that there should be an admixture of general literature, together with a certain number of religious books?—In open libraries, certainly.

2107. You think that some persons would probably be induced to extend their reading from general subjects to religious subjects, even though they might begin reading with more general objects?—Yes, it is the case sometimes.

2108. You have a public library in the parish of St. Martin's?—Yes.

2109. That is Tenison's library?—Yes; founded by Archbishop Tenison.

2110. Has you attention ever been turned to the present state of that library?—Yes, very closely.

2111. Can you inform the Committee of the result of your observations upon the subject?—It is not a very satisfactory result; the original foundation is not used as it might be for the purposes for which it was intended, and the institution that has been recently added to it is not so closely in connexion with it as I think it might have been. I think there have been two interests raised where there ought to have been only one, in reference to that library. It was left for the clergy and studious persons of the old parish of St. Martin's, containing St. James's, St. George's, St. Paul's Covent Garden, and St. Ann's Soho. It was very much neglected by those for whom it was intended; it was very little used; and about a dozen years ago, there was added to it a subscription library for general purposes. That subscription library is now conducted as a reading room in the place that was left by Archbishop Tenison in connexion with the trustees; but it seems to have superseded the other, instead of being made supplementary to it.

2112. You think it is not so available for literary purposes and for public use as was originally contemplated by Archbishop Tenison?—It is quite as available as far as the institution goes; it is open to any of the clergy or to any studious persons to apply for admission.

2113. Is it the trouble of obtaining admission to it of which you complain?—

I do

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I do not complain of the trouble of obtaining admission to it, but I think the union of the two departments might be made more perfect.

2114. Do you think that if, in the extensive parish of which you are vicar, there was a public library freely accessible, like the libraries abroad, it would have a good effect upon the population?—I am afraid that, without control and guidance, it would not be much used. This library of Archbishop Tenison's has been accessible always to the reading part of the parish if they would have gone to it, and yet it was scarcely at all used, so that I am told that in 11 years there were not 11 people applying for admission.

2115. Mr. *Wyld.*] Might not that arise from the books being books of the past century?—Yes.

2116. *Chairman.*] Supposing there were many modern books in such a library, and it were a lending library, would it have a good effect upon the habits and character of the population?—I think that that library might be so used as to be made the very nucleus of other libraries throughout the parish, on the plan that Mr. Brereton has suggested; it might be considered the central library, and with proper control, a number of subordinate reading-rooms might be placed in connexion with it; but such a scheme would be more costly than I could undertake upon my own responsibility to conduct.

2117. Mr. *Wyld.*] Do you think that the library of Archbishop Tenison might be made the nucleus of a good parochial lending library?—I mean that the subscription library should be made entirely subordinate to the Tenison Trust; the secretary of the subscription library should be made a sub-curator and keeper of the Tenison books; and in connexion with this, a number of small libraries, like the White Hart Court library, might be formed, which should be supplied with books from this source.

2118. *Chairman.*] Do you think that if there existed a sort of depôt of books such as you have described, many persons, knowing that there was this place in which books would be in safe custody, would bequeath or present books to such institutions?—There is not much encouragement given to that idea by the history of Tenison's library; but if that taste were cultivated, I have no doubt that donations would be very much increased.

2119. Mr. *Wyld.*] Have there been any additions made to Tenison's library?—There have been some, but few.

2120. Have you any knowledge of other parochial libraries?—No, except that we had a good parochial library at Yarmouth.

2121. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Does the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge grant books to parochial lending libraries?—Yes; on the application of the parochial clergy or of any members, I believe they are always ready to respond liberally. I have had, on one or two occasions, grants from them, in addition to purchases made. I think the rule is that if you purchase 5 *l.* of books, they will meet it with a grant of 5 *l.* more.

2122. Are the books exclusively religious?—I think you may purchase them from the supplemental catalogue, in which the books are not exclusively religious. Their direct catalogue is exclusively religious; but their supplemental catalogue contains books of history, and of science, and travels, and general information.

Charles Meyer, Esq., called in; and Examined.

C. Meyer, Esq.

2123. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE, Dr. Meyer, that you are German Secretary to his Royal Highness Prince Albert?—Yes.

2124. Your attention has been given to the public libraries of Germany?—Yes; I know several of them, having resided for several years in Gotha, in Hamburgh, in Leipsic, and in Munich.

2125. Have you perused the principal part of the evidence which has been given by Mr. Edwards upon this subject?—I have, and I find all the information he gives about German libraries quite correct.

2126. How would you divide the public libraries of Germany?—There are two sorts of public libraries in Germany; the one sort composed in a more general manner of the different branches of literature almost equally represented in it, of which the system is to buy books always in such a way as to fill up the wants which may exist in different branches of literature equally, and not to give a preference to any special branch of literature. Those libraries are, for instance, the university libraries, in conformity with the name, *Universitas*; viz.

universitas literaria. Then the second description of libraries would be those destined to represent special branches of literature; for instance, the Commercial Library, or the Library of Fine Arts, at Hamburgh, would be a most perfect instance of those special libraries. Those libraries, of course, contain a great number of works which only belong to those special branches of literature for which they are intended.

2127. You would divide the public libraries into two general branches, universal and particular?—Yes. Among the particular classes of libraries I would also class town libraries, which are destined for the history of the country and for the law of the country, and which contain a great number of books of mere local interest. I think the combination of the two sorts of libraries is of great use for promoting science in general, and likewise it is a less expensive system, as the general libraries are not obliged to buy many books which they are certain will be bought in other libraries. If in a town those two sorts of libraries co-exist, it is a great advantage for the respective libraries.

2128. You think that topographical libraries, such as you have described, relating more particularly to local matters, are of great importance in a country?—Yes.

2129. Have you any other description of libraries in Germany?—One might consider as a third, those public town libraries which are supported partly by public funds and partly by subscriptions; which is the case, for instance, in Lubeck, where the public funds are not sufficient to keep up the Town Library, and therefore a subscription is added to make up for the deficiency of the funds. A certain number of persons subscribe for a number of works, each subscriber having a right to propose a certain number of works. Then those works bought by those subscriptions, for the first year circulate merely amongst the subscribers, and after that they become the property of the town; and I think that is a very good and useful way of combining the two systems.

2130. Are the public libraries you have described freely accessible?—They are, with very few exceptions; they are moreover lending libraries, which I think is one most important difference between the English libraries and the German libraries.

2131. In the first place, they are freely accessible?—The university libraries are accessible, not to every foreigner, but you must be introduced by a member connected with the university, and recommended to the librarian, and then you may go there whenever you please; but first an introduction is required, in order to give you a right to go there and to obtain books.

2132–3. Are the State libraries and town libraries freely accessible?—In the town libraries every foreigner has not a right to go; he must be introduced, and every book he takes from the library must be warranted for by a citizen or member of the town. If you go to any foreign town in Germany and you want a book from the town library, you write the name of the book on a bit of paper, and a citizen writes his name under it, and you present this to the librarian and you get the work you ask for; but it must be under the guarantee of a person residing in the town.

2134. That is with respect to lending?—Yes; but also for access. You must first be introduced by a person known to the librarian, in order to have the right of using books.

2135. Does that apply to libraries like the libraries of Dresden and Munich?—Yes. It may be that, as matter of civility, the librarian, even without knowing you, seeing you are a foreigner, may possibly not urge the rule; but according to the rule you ought always to be recommended by a person known to the librarian, in order to have the right of examining books.

2136. With regard to natives, how far are natives admissible to the state libraries and town libraries?—At first an introduction to the person connected with the establishment is always required.

2137. Mr. *Wyld*.] Does that rule obtain universally?—In all those libraries which I know.

2138. Then there is no free access to the libraries in Germany in any town?—Only conditionally; every citizen has free access to the Town Library, and every member of the university has free access to the University Library; but if a citizen who is not a member of the university wishes to have free access to the University Library, he must first be introduced by one of the members of the university; and if a member of the university wishes to have access to the Town Library, he must have an introduction from a citizen in the town.

2139. *Chairman.*] How do they know all the citizens; might not a man apply as a citizen who might not be one?—His name is known as a citizen; there are lists, for instance, in the Town Library of Hamburgh of all the citizens.

2140. Mr. *Wyld.*] Take the library at Munich, for instance; suppose any resident of Munich applies to read a book, can he do so without a previous introduction?—No; they always require a previous introduction. In Munich, at the University Library, for instance, you must first be introduced by a member of the university to the librarian, and then after that first introduction you may go there whenever you like.

2141. Then the system in the German towns is somewhat analogous to the system at the British Museum?—Yes, it is very analogous. The only difference is that the British Museum is not a lending library, whereas that introduction to a German library gives you the right of taking away books.

2142. In every library with which you are acquainted in Germany do they require an introduction?—Yes.

2143. That is not required in Italy and France, is it?—In France it is, according to my information; in Paris, at least.

2144. Mr. *Bunbury.*] You spoke of the University Library at Munich; the great library at Munich is the Royal Library, is not it?—Certainly.

2145. How is the Royal Library at Munich accessible?—It requires likewise an introduction.

2146. Have you been in the habit of using the library?—Frequently; I have consulted the books in the library for my own use.

2147. Did you experience any difficulty in finding any books that you wanted: is there a sufficient catalogue to find everything that you want?—The catalogue, when I was in Munich, was not completed, and therefore sometimes I asked for a book which was not to be found. It was a rule, that if a work was frequently asked for by several people, and it was not in the library, that demand for the work was considered as a reason for buying the book.

2148. *Chairman.*] Do you attribute good results as to the literary character of Germany to the power of access to libraries?—Yes, I think it is of great use; although perhaps more for the scientific purposes of the learned class of people than for the more general instruction.

2149. Has the lending out of books produced a good result upon the character of the population?—I should reply in the same way, that I think it is productive of great benefit for the learned class of society, but perhaps less for the mass of the people.

2150. Do you think it very desirable that a literary man residing in any town in Germany should be able to have books at his command?—Certainly; that is a very great advantage, and an advantage which one frequently misses in this country, particularly the convenience of being allowed to take home.

2151. Do you apprehend that that privilege has had a good effect upon the literary character of Germany?—I am convinced that it has had a very good effect, and that partly may be the reason of the general interest in knowledge and science in the middle classes of Germany.

2152. Must it not therefore follow that if no such privilege has existed in England, the literary character of England must have suffered from the want of such libraries, in proportion as the literary character of Germany has been improved by their existence?—Yes, according to my opinion.

2153. You think, in short, that the literary men of Germany have, for a considerable time past, possessed an advantage over the literary men of England in consequenee of the existence of those local libraries, accessible to them in various parts of Germany?—Yes; it has saved a great number of our German learned men from the danger of becoming *autodidactoi*, self-taught. I think that is one essential point of difference that is visible in comparing the general character of the instruction in this country with that on the Continent: there are in this country a great number of self-taught people, who think according to their own views, without any reference to previous scientific works. They make sometimes very great discoveries, but sometimes they find that they have wasted their labour upon subjects already known, which have been written upon by a great number of people before them; but as they have no access to libraries it is impossible for them to get acquainted with the literature of that branch upon which they treat.

2154. Do you consider the existence of a good catalogue an indispensable requisite to a library?—Certainly.

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2155. Have you any suggestions to offer to the Committee with respect to the formation of a catalogue; would you have a classified catalogue, or an alphabetical catalogue?—What I should prefer would be a classified catalogue, according to the different branches of literature to which the books refer.

2156. In all the towns of Germany of any magnitude are there libraries?—With very few exceptions there are. I think there is scarcely a town where there are 12,000 inhabitants which does not possess a public library.

2157. How are those libraries supported?—Partly by ancient funds, partly by the contributions of the State, and partly by subscriptions.

2158. Are there any subscriptions from the municipalities of the different towns?—Yes; for instance, in the Town Library of Hamburgh, and in the Commercial Library of Hamburgh, the merchants of the town pay a certain sum, which may be sometimes increased according to the wants of the moment. A certain sum is fixed which must be paid for; and sometimes that sum is increased, if, according to the wishes and the advice of the committee, some very expensive works have been bought in that year.

2159. Do you think that it would be desirable that in commercial towns, such as there are great numbers of in England, there should be commercial libraries for the benefit of the mercantile classes?—I should think it a very great advantage.

2160. Do you think that the general information of the merchants of Hamburgh has been increased by the possession of commercial libraries?—I am convinced of it.

2161. Do you infer from that, that it would produce a good result if in a large commercial town like Liverpool, or Glasgow, or Hull, or Bristol, there were such libraries?—Yes; I foresee, however, more direct and immediate advantages from special libraries than from general libraries; they better agree with the principle so generally admitted in this country, of division of labour.

2162. Probably you think, also, that in our manufacturing towns the existence of libraries connected with manufactures and commerce, would produce great advantages, not only in imparting general instruction, but also in promoting the extension of the commerce and manufactures of the town?—Yes, so I am convinced. At the same time, I believe that it is easier to get subscriptions for special libraries than for general libraries, as the individual interest in the subject is greater.

2163. Would it not seem to be natural that a town like Manchester should have a commercial library, which should contain every book not only of a generally commercial character, but specially devoted to the elucidation of the cotton trade and cotton manufactures?—Yes.

2164. And so at Leeds with reference to the woollen manufactures?—Yes. By way of first getting the nucleus of such a library, I think that the system adopted in the town of Lubeck would be most desirable; namely, to have a number of subscribers who subscribe first for having those works, which are bought and used as a sort of circulating library for one year, and afterwards, when they have been read by all those first subscribers, they are added to the library and become public property.

2165. Will you have the goodness to state the nature, and the capabilities of extension, of the Commercial Library at Hamburgh. When was it founded?—It was founded in 1735 or 1736.

2166. By the merchants of Hamburgh?—Yes. It was founded as a sort of supplement to the Town Library. Many books which were wanted at the Town Library being too dear to be bought, and not answering the general purposes of the Town Library, it was thought necessary to have another library more particularly destined for those works of commercial interest.

2167. Would it not greatly facilitate the study of political economy, if in those places where commerce exists, and gives practical illustrations of the principles of political economy, those commercial libraries had their foundation?—Yes, I should think it would be a great advantage.

2168. Is it not natural that the study of such a science as political economy would be most practically carried out in those places where commerce is the pursuit of the population?—Certainly.

2169. There the facts would give daily illustrations of the theory of the science?—Yes.

2170. Are the public libraries with which you are acquainted in Germany subject to the control or supervision of any Minister, such as the Minister of Public Instruction?—The university libraries are under the special care of the librarians, and of a committee, which in Munich is permanent. There is a chief librarian, who has the inspection of the establishment. And then the academy acts as a sort of committee; and in any matters as to the purchase of books, or the superintendence of the library, upon which the librarian is unwilling to take upon himself the responsibility, he refers to the academy.

2171. But the State library being supported to a certain extent or wholly by the State, must be visited and superintended by the Minister of Public Instruction?—Yes; they are under the direction of the Minister of Public Instruction: in the smaller towns, generally, under the General Superintendent, which is a sort of ecclesiastical dignity, the president of the consistory: so it is in Gotha.

2172. And in the municipal towns, under the town council?—In the municipal towns, under the town council. For instance, in Lubeck from the town council there is a committee selected from amongst the subscribers.

2173. What additions of books are made to those libraries from year to year?—That differs in different cases. In certain cases the librarian or the committee have it in their power to buy those books which they think necessary, according to the plan of the library. If it is a general library, then they are obliged to fill up equally all the different branches. If it is a special library, then of course their aim is different.

2174. But there are means in all those libraries of self-extension; that is to say, they have the means of adding to those libraries by purchasing books from year to year?—Yes.

2175. And they do so?—Yes.

2176. Has the practice of lending out books from the libraries been attended with any serious losses of books?—I think in general, not at all; there have been very few instances.

2177. Not of such a moment as to be weighed against the advantages derived from such a use of the books?—Certainly not; I scarcely know any instance of a book having been lost or spoiled by having been lent out.

2178. With respect to the libraries with which you are acquainted in Germany, do you know whether there is any power existing of exacting from authors copies of their works, on the first publication of those works?—In some parts of Germany it is compulsory that every author shall give to the library one copy of his work. In others it is not compulsory, but it is always done; it is a sort of traditional civility.

2179. Is it usual to give copies of every edition of the work?—No; at least it is not compulsory; it may be done, but unless the new edition is an alteration of the work, it is not generally done.

2180. Are there many duplicate copies of books in the libraries in Germany?—Of all those books which are required for frequent use, there exist not only duplicates, but a great number of copies; but of works which are not so frequently read, and which are very expensive, it is not so.

2181. But it is indispensable for a lending library that there should be several copies of books which are much read?—Yes; the demand is taken as the rule for buying duplicates: for instance, if frequent demands are made for a work, the librarian considers that as a reason to buy duplicates; in fact he always consults the public convenience. In Gotha, of all the classical works there are 10 or 20 copies of the same work, in different editions.

2182. In commercial towns, with a busy population, like Hamburgh and Lubeck, are any public libraries open for the purposes of study in the evening?—Not in the evening.

2183. Are you aware of any libraries in Germany which are open in the evening for the benefit of those persons who are occupied during the day?—No, not to my recollection.

2184. Mr. *Bunbury*.] The Germans are a much earlier people in their habits than the English; they use the morning more and the evening less?—Yes; our libraries are open from eight in the morning till four in the afteroon.

2185. Mr. *Wyld*.] Are your libraries accessible to the working classes in Germany?—All the town libraries are accessible if the working man is a citizen; and in Hamburgh the town libraries are very much made use of by the working classes.

2186. *Chairman*.] Is it so in Lubeck?—Yes.

2187. Does

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2187. Does that produce a good effect upon the working classes?—I think it does.

2188. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Are the working classes in Germany generally able to read and write?—Yes; the average number who read and write is much greater in Germany than it is in this country.

2189. Have you any system of village or parochial libraries for the agricultural population?—No, not to my knowledge; I cannot recollect any general village library. Usually the village schoolmaster is the man who has possession of the library, such as it is. Very frequently the library is bought with ecclesiastical funds; but the way in which those funds are applied is very imperfect; therefore those village libraries only consist of a few theological books, including some prayer books, not books of more general knowledge.

2190. *Chairman.*] Have popular publications for the information of the people, such as you must have observed have been very much extended in England of late, been issued for the instruction of the people in Germany?—Yes, in great numbers during the last 20 years, which was an epoch of great political excitement.

2191. Have they been much read?—Yes, I hope they have; but unfortunately many books of bad character have been read at the same time, and it is difficult to say whether, during that epoch, the good or the evil has been prevailing.

2192. In England we have great numbers of books published now by extensive publishers, aiming rather at the instruction of the people than at the excitement of the people?—Yes; and several similar enterprizes have been made in Germany; but I think I should not be justified in saying that they have had hitherto a very good effect.

2193. You think those which are of a useful character have been counteracted by more exciting publications?—Yes. The fact is, that our circulating libraries in Germany are much more numerous than in England, on account of books being much cheaper than they are in this country, paper and everything being so much cheaper.

2194. What is the cause of the greater cheapness of books in Germany?—There is no paper tax, and labour in Germany is much cheaper; then the paper is much worse, and the print is very bad. You may buy a volume in Germany for 3*d.*

2195. Is there any duty on advertisements in Germany?—No.

2196. So that a person can advertise a book as often as he likes, without expense?—Yes; there is the mere expense of the print.

2197. What is the duty on foreign books in Germany?—There is no duty at all, except in Austria.

2198. There is none in Prussia?—No.

2199. Nor any in Hanover?—No.

2200. Nor in Hamburgh or Lubeck, or any of those commercial towns?—No.

2201. The Zollverein has no duty on books?—No.

2202. You are aware that there is a duty in England on foreign books?—Yes, I have frequently experienced it, to my great annoyance.

2203. From your knowledge of the provinces of England, are you of opinion that there is a want of public libraries as numerous and as accessible as those which exist on the Continent?—I have been frequently struck with the difference in that point of view, and the comparative want of libraries in England. I was struck with the great advantages connected with the establishment of the London Library, which is a most excellent establishment, as well for the selection of books as for the great number of duplicates. I do not know any circulating library on the Continent which could be compared to it.

2204. That is a subscription library?—Yes. If the English Government intended to establish public libraries, it might be possible that a subscription library such as that might become the nucleus of a public library, by a sort of understanding between the subscribers and the Government, the Government giving a certain sum upon condition that the subscribers would allow their property to become public property after a certain time.

2205. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Have you been in the habit of using the London Library?—Yes.

2206. Are you of opinion that that sort of extent and selection of books would be sufficient to meet the ordinary requirements of literary men, supposing such a library were established in each of the great provincial towns?—I think it would; it would answer the character of a general library.

2207. Mr. *Brotherton.*] From your observation are you of opinion that the public libraries on the Continent are generally well attended by readers?—Very well. I am not able to give you the exact number of books read in Munich, but if it would be of any interest to the Committee I could ascertain by writing to Munich.

2208. Mr. *Hamilton.*] With regard to the Commercial Library of Hamburgh, can you state what is the general character of the books in the library; are they exclusively commercial?—No; for instance, there is a very valuable collection of oriental manuscripts; in fact, everything connected with commerce and foreign literature is very well represented in that library.

2209. And the laws of commerce in different countries?—Yes; in colonial literature it is very rich, and it has very expensive works of voyages and travels, and a collection of oriental manuscripts, Persian, Arabic, and Sanscrit, all very valuable.

2210. Can you state whether practically that library has been made much use of by those engaged in foreign trade in Hamburgh?—I should not be able to state that; but, speaking generally, I always thought I might attribute the great diffusion of general knowledge amongst the Hamburgh merchants to the frequent use which they make of the Commercial Library.

2211. As a class the Hamburgh merchants are considered to be remarkably well informed and intelligent?—Yes; and so are the sea captains, who frequently make use of the Commercial Library. I have found them comparatively better informed than the same class of persons belonging to other nations.

2212. Can you state whether the masters of vessels at Hamburgh frequent that library?—Yes, many of them do; they are frequently four or five weeks in Hamburgh, and then they make use of the library; at least I know two or three instances in which the masters themselves told me so, and they expressed their satisfaction with the opportunity they had of having access to the library.

2213. Do they use it with the view of studying matters of a professional character; for instance, the climate or the circumstances of a country or of a port to which they might be going?—Yes, they consult those subjects which refer to objects with which they have become acquainted. As with most practical men, they like to refer to some object of their recollection.

2214. Then you think that a library containing information bearing upon the practical experience of nautical men, is peculiarly desirable, as helping to confirm or to correct their observations?—Yes.

2215. Are there libraries in the army in Germany?—Yes; we have military schools, which not only refer to boys, but likewise to adults. In almost every regiment there is a military school, where the soldier goes to have lessons.

2216. Sir *H. Verney.*] Are the libraries which they have, garrison libraries or regimental libraries?—They are regimental libraries.

2217. Do the regiments carry libraries about with them?—They do.

2218. Are they under the care of the soldiers themselves?—Under the care of the officers; but I do not know whether the soldiers pay any contributions to it. It is a most excellent establishment.

2219. Do you know whether there are regimental libraries in this country?—Yes.

2220. Where have you seen them?—I saw them at Windsor; the Grenadier Guards and the Scotch Fusiliers have very good regimental libraries.

2221. Was it a regimental library, or a garrison library?—A regimental library, the officers told me.

2222. *Chairman.*] Do not you think it desirable that the great libraries of the country should have catalogues of all the different provincial libraries, so that a person at the centre might know what there is within all the circumference?—Certainly.

2223. Should not a collection of catalogues form a part of every large library?—Certainly.

2224. You probably think that in every country there should be two or three great libraries which should be the depôts of every book that is published, so that future times should have almost unlimited resources for the history of the passing times?—Yes.

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2225. And other libraries of a lesser description should be more adapted to the daily purposes of life?—Yes.

The Rev. *John James Smith*, called in; and Examined.

Rev. *J. J. Smith*.

2226. *Chairman*.] I BELIEVE you have been the Librarian of the Library of Caius College, Cambridge?—I was so for about 15 years, till the end of last year.

2227. Your attention has been naturally turned principally to university libraries?—Principally to university libraries. In the course of my travelling about through England I have made libraries a subject of inquiry the last few years.

2228. What are the principal libraries at Cambridge?—The University Library is the principal one; there is another one belonging to the University, forming part of the Fitzwilliam Museum; and there is also a library attached to each of the colleges, 17 in number.

2229. What was the original foundation of the University Library?—It came first by private bequests of individuals, and also by gifts; for a long time it remained very limited in extent.

2230. What is the origin of the other libraries?—The Fitzwilliam is almost wholly a bequest of one individual, Lord Fitzwilliam: there is a small library belonging to the Philosophical Society, which is a chartered society.

2231. Those libraries are none of them quite free of access to the public?—Not perfectly free.

2232. What are the limitations with respect to them?—They may be said each of them to be confined, strictly speaking, to the use of the respective bodies themselves; but through the privileges allowed to their members, other individuals belonging to the public have practically access.

2233. Have they been more unrestrictedly used lately than formerly?—Yes; they have been making very recently improvements and enlargements in the regulations, applying, of course, to their own body.

2234. And those improvements have involved a more extended admission of readers than formerly?—To a certain extent. Perhaps I might specify them, to show the nature of the enlargements. The University for the most part consists of three degrees; masters of arts, bachelors of arts, and under-graduates. For a long time the masters of arts only had access to the books in the building. After a certain time, those non-resident in the University and those resident too, had the privilege of taking out of the building each a certain number of books, that is, 10 volumes. Some years afterwards the bachelors of arts, the second degree, had the same sort of privilege allowed to them within other limits; five books, for instance, was the number allowed to be taken out: and just within this month they have given to the under-graduates the privilege of having books out at the recommendation of the college tutors.

2235. Has that extended use of the books been attended with benefits to the students in the university?—I should think very great indeed.

2236. Even among the under-graduates?—Yes.

2237. Are you aware how far the same extension has been adopted in the University of Oxford?—Their system is very different, and much more restricted. For instance, no master of arts belonging to the university, either resident or non-resident, can take any book out.

2238. You speak of the Bodleian Library now?—Yes.

2239. Who are the persons that can take out books at Oxford?—The volumes are never removed from the building.

2240. Who are allowed to use them?—Only masters of arts, and those of higher degrees.

2241. But an under-graduate cannot even read the books in the Bodleian Library?—No.

2242. He can, however, if introduced?—I think he can; the librarian can give him permission.

2243. Then the main difference between the Oxford and Cambridge University libraries now is, that the Cambridge Library is a lending library, and that the Oxford one is a non-lending library?—As to the University Library.

2244. Mr. *Hamilton*.] Is not the Radcliffe Library at Oxford more accessible than the Bodleian?—I am not prepared to say that.

2245. Mr. *Bunbury*.] Has not there been a new regulation with regard to the under-graduates under-graduates at Cambridge; cannot an under-graduate now take out books from the University Library upon a general recommendation from his tutor, as well as books from the college libraries?—The title of the book must be written by his tutor.

2246. There must be a separate order for each book?—Yes.

2247. Is he now admitted to go into the library, and read there as much as he pleases?—I am not quite certain. Those regulations have been passed since I ceased to reside, but I think it is so. I am almost certain that he may go there and read, but I think the volumes must be given to him.

2248. *Chairman.*] In fact, there has been a gradual extension of the use of the books, from the time when the books used to be chained down, to the more enlarged system of modern times?—Yes.

2249. Mr. *Bunbury.*] There is a class of books which are not lent out in the same way as the generality of the books?—Yes; some books of general reference.

2250. And valuable books of prints?—Yes, illustrated books.

2251. Manuscripts are not lent out without a special grace of the senate?—A special grace of the senate is required for a person who wishes for the use of such books.

2252. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Is there facility in obtaining permission to copy manuscripts?—Yes; any one may go there with a recommendation from a master of arts or the librarian. He must be attended by the master of arts recommending.

2253. Mr. *Wyld.*] Is he allowed to copy the manuscript himself?—Yes.

2254. *Chairman.*] Both the University Library at Oxford and the University Library at Cambridge receive first copies of the works of authors?—Yes, they do.

2255. Does not that constitute them public libraries?—I consider them as depositaries for the preservation of books as well as for the encouragement of literature and of study in the university.

2256. Have many bequests or donations been made to the public libraries of the universities of late years?—Not lately.

2757. Were more frequent bequests made formerly?—Formerly that was the only way in which accessions to the library could be made.

2258. To what do you attribute the diminution in the gifts and bequests?—I suppose it is owing to the idea that the University Library is able to maintain itself.

2259. Have the university libraries ample funds for their own sustenance and extension?—No, I think not; in fact their insufficiency is proved by the condition of the libraries in certain points.

2260. Will you have the goodness to state on what you found your belief of the insufficiency of the existing funds for the maintenance of the university libraries?—In the first place, as to the salaries of the officers; the principal librarian has a very small salary, and the attendants are not sufficient in number, I think, for the proper protection and use of the library.

2261. Are the books kept in good order?—The books are kept in good order.

2262. Are the libraries properly warmed?—The building is partly old and partly new; the old part is extremely defective in that particular.

2263. Do the books suffer from damp?—They have not suffered as might have been expected.

2264. You are speaking now exclusively of the library at Cambridge?—Yes.

2265. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Is it not the fact that the Bodleian Library is not warmed at all?—The Bodleian Library has been recently warmed; but such was the state of both, that at Cambridge in the winter it was a work of danger to read there.

2266. With respect to the library of Trinity College, is not it the fact that there are no means of warming it at all?—Yes.

2267. *Chairman.*] Can you suggest any available means by which greater funds could be procured for the maintenance and extension of the university libraries?—In the first place, at Cambridge they have funds, the result of a bequest, to a considerable amount, and they also obtain a certain sum by a small annual levy upon each member whose name is on the books.

2268. What is the amount of that levy?—Six shillings per head.

2269. Is that upon admission?—Upon admission, and continues as long as the name is retained on the boards.

2270. How would you propose to increase the resources of the libraries?—Having taken a good deal of interest in this matter, I would make some remarks upon the subject of a proposition which I wished to have brought forward, namely, to have increased the contribution of 6 *s.* per head to 1 *l.*

2271. Would that be felt by students entering the university?—I should say not at all, except in very few instances.

2272. Can you increase it by the powers of your constitution?—The obstacle to the adoption of the proposition was that it was considered that the university had not the powers so to do.

2273. Was an Act of Parliament deemed necessary?—It was considered by a great number necessary.

2274. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Is that 6 *s.* per head now levied upon all who keep their names upon the books, whether resident or not at Cambridge?—Yes, upon all.

2275. Do not you apprehend that if there were an increase in that amount there would be difficulty in levying it upon the non-resident masters?—The only difficulty would be the want of power in the university to do so.

2276. If you have had much experience at Cambridge you are probably aware that there is nothing which is more difficult than getting certain payments from non-resident masters who have left Cambridge for a long time?—Yes, it is so I know. But that difficulty is owing to a little doubt as to the power of recovery.

2277. *Chairman.*] Is there a good catalogue of the University Library at Cambridge?—A very good one in manuscript.

2278. It is not printed?—No.

2279. Do not you think it would be very desirable that you should have a printed catalogue?—I myself consider a catalogue absolutely necessary both to the safety and the usefulness of any library.

2280. Is there a copy of the catalogues of the Cambridge and Oxford University Libraries in the British Museum?—I suppose there is of that at Oxford; but there is no catalogue at all of the Cambridge Library in print.

2281. Can you suggest any improvement in the catalogues of the university libraries?—The one at Cambridge is only alphabetical.

2282. What do you think would be the best catalogue to have?—I should think that an alphabetical one is absolutely necessary; but a catalogue *raisonné* also would be highly useful.

2283. You think that to have it complete it should be both *raisonné* and alphabetical?—Yes.

2284. What are the contents of the library at Cambridge?—I believe it is very good in almost all departments, and very extensive. They have been increasing latterly their stock of foreign books very largely, in German and French works, and some Italian.

2285. Have they devoted some portion of their funds to the purchase of foreign works?—Yes, a considerable sum.

2286. What kind of foreign books?—Scientific, for the most part.

2287. Mr. *Bunbury.*] They have a very good collection of foreign historical and other foreign books?—Yes. What we obtain depends a good deal upon the recommenders: for instance, we keep books lying to receive recommendations; any member of the university can write recommendations of books, according to his knowledge, taste, and judgment.

2288. In point of fact, almost every book that is recommended is bought?—Yes; sooner or later.

2289. *Chairman.*] What is the literary wealth of the college libraries in Cambridge?—Some of them are very good libraries. They differ in the proportions they have of different departments, according to circumstances; for instance, in my own college, Caius College, the medical profession prevails to a great extent; we have a large collection of medical books.

2290. Can you give the Committee any insight into the peculiar characteristics of the different college libraries in Cambridge?—My own is the one with which I am best acquainted; that contains medical works. Latterly we have been increasing our collection of mathematical works. I think for the most part I would say that the theological department exceeded any other; and, next to that, classical. In Trinity Hall, which is considered the law college, law books prevail.

2291. What is the principal literary wealth in manuscripts in Cambridge?—In manuscripts the college libraries are very rich: my own for one, Trinity College for another; St. John's has a good collection; Emanuel has another interesting one; and Corpus Christi College perhaps ranks first for the value of the collection.

2292. What is the nature of those manuscripts?—Corpus Christi, for instance, would be remarked for its proportion of English history; that at Caius College would be a mixture of theological and civil law, and medicine.

2293. Which is the principal depôt of classical manuscripts at Cambridge?—At Trinity, I should think; but I do not think that there are any large number of them.

2294. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Are there not but few ancient manuscripts in the colleges at Cambridge?—But few.

2295. *Chairman.*] The number of rare writings and scarce editions is much greater?—Yes; that is one peculiar feature of the college libraries; we find it often proved in practice; writers come to us and find copies of works which they have not been able to find elsewhere.

2296. Are there any libraries in the country attached to large schools which you would consider a kind of subordinate college libraries?—The one which, according to my experience, is in the best condition is the one at Manchester, the Chetham Library.

2297. Are there any libraries attached to public schools?—Winchester College and Eton College have both good collections.

2298. What does the collection at Winchester consist of?—They have at Winchester printed books and manuscripts, some of them valuable; and at Eton, the amount of manuscripts is of some value; they have a number of oriental manuscripts at Eton; it was rather a curious circumstance that the person who left them, left half the stock to King's College, Cambridge, and half to Eton College; they were divided numerically; so that one volume of a work is in one place, and the other volume in the other, and neither of them know what they have, I believe.

2299. Has Shrewsbury School a library of any extent?—Not of any great extent; but there are some manuscripts of historical interest.

2300. Have you turned your attention to the subject of Cathedral libraries?—In travelling through the country I have visited several of them, and made general observations upon them.

2301. Are they principally theological libraries?—Yes.

2302. Does not almost every cathedral possess a library attached to it?—Yes.

2303. Have they enlarged their libraries much of late years?—To a very small extent.

2304. Are they more accessible than they used to be?—I think not, except at Salisbury, where I was two months since; where they have commenced the system of lending out books upon the application of any resident in the town.

2305. Have they extended it from theological works to more general works?—The system of improvement in this library has just commenced.

2306. Has your attention been turned to the memoir of Mr. Botfield (formerly a Member of the House of Commons), upon the subject of cathedral libraries?—I have seen it.

2307. Those libraries are principally upon a theological basis?—They are.

2308. You do not know whether they are more accessible than they formerly were?—I can only speak as to some half-dozen of them.

2309. Are there any catalogues of those cathedral libraries?—As far as I know, Ely and Durham are the only two which have printed catalogues; the others have very deficient ones in manuscript.

2310. Are they sufficient catalogues?—I should say not, from those which I have inspected.

2311. How are those libraries of ancient formation maintained?—I should suppose by the cathedral funds.

2312. Have they any additions by purchase?—Very few.

2313. What are the contents of the libraries?—Principally theological; they have some classical works; several of them that I have seen have manuscript collections. Lincoln has a very good collection of manuscripts.

2314. Are they valuable manuscripts?—I think they are. Lincoln has some which are of value; and Salisbury, I believe, has more.

2315. What is the nature of the manuscripts?—They are principally theological and historical.

2316. Have they many scarce works or editions?—In some they have.

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2317. Have you ever paid attention to the old parochial libraries existing in some parts of the country?—In my travels through England I have seen several such libraries.

2318. Can you give the Committee any information as to the number which there may be of such libraries?—I can count, merely from personal recollection, some 10 or 12. There is one at Newport, in Essex; and in Cambridgeshire I know two, at Royston and at Bassingbourn. In Norfolk there is Swaffham, Lynn, and Shipdham; in Surrey there is one at Reigate; in Devonshire, there is one at Totness; there was one at St. Mary Ottery, but that has vanished. In Suffolk there is one at Beccles.

2319. Has not the Beccles Library been very much improved?—When I saw it first it was lying in a room allotted to it in the church; the room was quite open, and the books were thrown about in disorder; but since that time it has been made the commencement of a town library. Now it is well kept, and the library is properly used, under good regulations.

2320. Has anybody in the town access to the library?—I have the regulations at home: I think anyone has access to it.

2321. It is much more serviceable than it was when the books were lying unemployed?—Yes; it is both valuable and serviceable now. I think it is under similar regulations as other town libraries that have subscribers.

2322. Might not the other parish libraries you mentioned be improved in the same way?—I imagine so.

2323. What other ancient parochial libraries are you acquainted with?—Those I have mentioned; Mr. Botfield mentions several.

2324. Mr. Botfield mentions one at Langley, in Buckinghamshire?—Yes.

2325. He also mentions several in Shropshire, founded by the Earl of Bridgewater, on a very fine foundation?—I believe there are several.

2326. Can you state the number of books in those libraries?—Those which I have seen have varied in number from a score to 1,500; the one I mentioned at Shipdham, I have not seen, but I have heard a description of it; I believe that contains some very valuable works.

2327. They originally resulted from gifts or bequests of individuals?—They did; bequests principally, I think.

2328. There is one you mentioned at Reigate; is that a good one?—That is a very good one at Reigate; that is in partial use.

2329. Are additions made to it?—Very few additions; I think they have not a system large enough to admit of that yet.

2330. Have they funds out of which they can supply new books?—Only those raised by subscriptions.

2331. Is not there a fund called Dr. Bray's Fund, for the promotion of parochial libraries?—There is one for the general increase of parochial libraries through England, but I do not know anything about the administration of it.

2332. Can you state what were the terms under which Dr. Bray left this fund?—I think it is called "Dr. Bray's Bequest for the Enlargement of Parochial Libraries throughout the country."

2333. Who has the administration of that fund?—I do not know; but the library at Newport, in Essex, contains about a score or two of books which have been given from that fund.

2334. You do not know whether Dr. Bray's Fund was inquired into by the Charity Commission, established on Lord Brougham's motion in the year 1819?—No.

2335. Have you ever studied the Digest of the Reports of that Commission?—No, but I have often wished to know how it was that the parochial libraries escaped notice.

2336. Do you know whether those parochial libraries came under the notice of those Commissioners?—I should think they did not. There was an Act of Parliament, I think of the 7 Anne, c. 14, upon parochial libraries; whether the provisions of the Act are in force now I do not know. By that Act there is a system provided for the management of parochial libraries; but as far as I know it has not been at all attended to.

2337. Will you give the Committee shortly, the substance of the general enactments of that Act of Queen Anne?—The date of the Act is 1708, the 7th of Queen Anne, c. 14: "An Act for the better Preservation of Parochial Libraries in that part

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part of Great Britaian called England." The preamble of the Act is as follows: "Whereas in many places in the south parts of Great Britain called England and Wales, the provision for the clergy is so mean, that the necessary expense of books for the better prosecution of their studies cannot be defrayed by them; and whereas of late years several charitable and well-disposed persons, have by charitable contributions erected libraries within several parishes and districts in England and Wales, but some provision is wanting to preserve the same, and such others as shall be provided in the same manner, from embezzlement." And then it proceeds to the enacting part.

2338. Will you have the goodness to read the marginal notes of the most important clauses?—(*The same were read as follows:*) "1. Parish library to be preserved. 2. Incumbents, &c., to give security. If any book taken away &c., trover. 3. Ordinary, &c., may inquire into the state of library. 4. Incumbent, &c., to make a catalogue. 6. Upon death or removal of incumbent, churchwardens shall lock up library. 8. Incumbent shall enter benefactions in books. 9. The ordinary and donor may make orders. 10. Books not to be alienable without consent of the ordinary. If book lost, warrant. 11. Proviso for library in Reigate."

2339. Are there any catalogues of those parochial libraries?—In most cases none at all.

2340. Who is the librarian or curator?—I do not think there is any one that considers himself answerable for it.

2341. In fact, are the books lying exposed to chance, and liable to be torn by the children of the village?—They sometimes are. In the instance of the Beccles Library I saw two or three boys of the school in the room, and some of the books were lying open on their face on the floor.

2342. What are the contents of those parochial libraries, as far as you have investigated them?—For the most part theological, but there are some classical books, and some miscellaneous.

2343. Historical?—To a certain extent.

2344. Any manuscripts?—In some of them.

2345. What sort of manuscripts?—As far as I have seen them, of no particular value.

2346. Still it would be proper that they should be collected and examined?—Certainly.

2347. Were there any books of value?—In two or three instances I believe there are some of considerable value. In Shipdham in Norfolk, I am told there are very early-printed books, of Caxton's, and of other early printers. I have heard also, but I have not had an opportunity of ascertaining the fact, that at Bishop Stortford there are valuable books belonging to the Free School there.

2348. Are there not other libraries in England or Wales; for instance, at Lampeter, is not there a large library?—I cannot say.

2349. Is the Reigate Library established under a local Act?—There is a local Act, but I have not seen it.

2350. Have you ever published or prepared any statement respecting these libraries?—Having made this the subject of inquiry and observation in the course of travelling, and having taken an active part in the proceedings of our Antiquarian Society at Cambridge, I have given them descriptions of what I have observed from time to time; and the society has my written notes.

2351. Are the notes you gave to the Antiquarian Society of Cambridge printed?—No.

2352. Where are the parochial libraries generally kept?—In the church, in a room over the porch.

2353. Where is the library at Beccles kept now?—They have a room in the town.

2354. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Are not they liable to suffer from damp in such places?—In the instance of the library at Bassingbourn, where they have about 1,000 volumes, some of the books were in different states and degrees of destruction.

2355. *Chairman.*] Do you think that these parochial libraries might be made the nuclei of district libraries?—I should think so; upon the same principle upon which town libraries are formed.

2356. With regard to town libraries, have you ever paid attention to the libraries existing in different towns?—In the same way, in passing through towns I have inquired about the libraries in them.

2357. With

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2357. With what town libraries are you acquainted?—With the Norwich.

2358. What sort of library is that?—There are two libraries in Norwich, very good indeed; one, I think, has 20,000 volumes.

2359. How far are they accessible to the public?—To proprietors only.

2360. Have they been long established?—I do not know the exact date.

2361. The books are lent out, are they?—Yes.

2362. Is there a library at Hull?—At Hull there is another large established library.

2363. That is also a subscription library?—Yes.

2364. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Do you happen to know anything of the subscription library at Bury St. Edmund's?—I have only heard of it.

2365. You never happened to see the books belonging to the parochial library there?—No; but I believe it is a case analogous to the Beccles Library. There are a great many theological works in those parish libraries, which, except for their antique appearance, might be commonly used; for they are in good print, and they are the same works which are actually now used in village lending libraries.

2366. *Chairman.*] Is there a subscription library at Brighton?—There is a public library at Brighton.

2367. Not an old foundation?—No.

2368. In London there are several old foundations?—In London there are several. I have been in Tenison's Library.

2369. And Dr. Williams's Library?—I have heard of it.

2370. Are those town libraries permanent foundations?—I apprehend not; there is no security for their existing a day longer than the set of proprietors choose.

2371. Then they should have new constitutions given to them if possible, so as to secure their permanence?—That would be desirable. I should think by a charter, or something analogous.

2372. Do you think that if they were made more efficient they might compete with such institutions as book clubs?—They would if they were more efficiently constituted.

2373. What is the extent of those town libraries?—I think the largest, at Norwich, is 20,000 or 30,000 volumes.

2374. Have they catalogues?—They have not perfect ones.

2375. What is the condition of the books?—The books are in very good condition.

2376. The use of those libraries is confined to the proprietors and subscribers?—Yes. In some they admit subscribers for a month or a shorter time.

2377. Have you any suggestions to offer with a view to increase the efficiency of those town libraries?—I do not know to what extent encouragement might be given; but it would be a great encouragement if the buildings were free from rates and taxes.

2378. They are not free from rates now?—I believe not. The rates and taxes upon buildings of that description are a very heavy drawback upon them; for instance, the window tax on the reading-rooms, if there are many windows, comes to a large sum. In the case of the Fitzwilliam Museum, at Cambridge, which I suppose may be called a scientific institution, which contains books of all descriptions, literary and scientific, and also collections of pictures and other objects of art and science, they are attempting to subject that to rates, in consequence of the curator residing in the building. Now a collection of that description, if the curator does not reside in it, is exposed to danger in several ways. The safety of a collection of that description absolutely depends upon somebody residing in the building. In the case of the Fitzwilliam Museum it becomes a serious matter, since they rate us at 1,500*l.* a year, because we have raised a handsome building.

2379. Mr. *Bunbury.*] The university buildings at Cambridge are exempted from rates?—They are, with some few exceptions.

2380. *Chairman.*] Have you ever turned your attention to village or lending libraries and mechanics' institutes?—Often. I am now attending to the subject, and I am very much interested in the matter.

2381. What do you consider to be the wants of such village lending libraries and mechanics' institutes?—Now that in almost every parish in England they are teaching reading, and of course by degrees increasing the taste for reading,

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I should think it becomes essential to have some collection of books, and some opportunity for the people to have general reading within their reach.

2382. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Are you of opinion that where there are rare books in those parochial libraries, if there exists the power of disposing of them it would be desirable to do so, and to exchange them for other books which would be more useful to the district?—I should say so. That idea struck me in the instance of Beccles; when I saw the library there in that neglected state, and found there a copy of King Edward the Sixth's first Prayer Book, the current value of which was said to be about 20 or 25 guineas, I had a thought then of offering to the town, if possible, a sum of money in order to obtain this, and put it where it would be in greater safety.

2383. *Chairman.*] Such a book should be placed in a central deposit?—Yes.

2384. And the books which they would be able to purchase with the proceeds of the sale of such works would be more valuable to the parishes than the rare books which were sold?—It would be a mutual and a general benefit.

2385. Have you any suggestions to make for the extension of village or lending libraries, or libraries connected with mechanics' institutions?—That I have hardly considered sufficiently to specify any suggestions at present.

2386. Have you any village library in the parish of Loddon, in Norfolk?—No; that is one of my great objects. I find that a general desire exists among the inhabitants to have such a resource.

2387. Are they a purely rural population?—Quite rural.

2388. And they desire to have a library?—As far as I have ascertained they have a very considerable desire.

2389. Would they subscribe for it, or would the gentry in the neighbourhood subscribe for them?—I must have recourse to both methods. My own idea is, that it should be, as far as possible, self-supporting, because if they do not take an interest in it themselves I suppose the benefit will not be so great.

2390. Does not the increased number of publications of a popular character, and useful for popular instruction, at the present time, not only facilitate but invite the formation of such libraries all over the country?—Decidedly; two or three societies give great facilities for forming libraries.

2391. Do you know other clergymen who are assisting in the formation of similar useful libraries in various parts of the country?—I have heard of very many other instances. I think a library is one of the things that the clergy look constantly to obtaining for their parish.

2392. Might it not be very advantageous to the poor, not only as affording them instruction in a religious point of view, but also because it might teach them matters of practical importance, such as those connected with cleanliness and the ventilation of their dwellings, and their agricultural pursuits or their trades?—In every one of those points.

2393. And now that emigration has become so common from the rural districts, might it not become the vehicle of very useful information on that important subject?—I should think so. In selecting books for this purpose I have had a view to these several points, that the collection should have as practical a bearing upon the interests of the several classes as possible. My idea of a village lending library is, that it should apply not only to the poorest classes, but to almost all classes; they might almost all be combined and worked together, the subscription being different for works of different classes and sizes.

2394. So that the richest persons might be comprehended in the use of the books as well as the poorest?—Yes; the subscription being according to the expensiveness of the work.

2395. They might take a common interest in it, and have a common committee?—Yes.

2396. Those libraries might vary in character according to the different localities; for instance, the libraries near the sea might instruct the people in matters connected with fishing, navigation, and so forth; and the more rural libraries, of course, with respect to more purely agricultural questions?—The circumstances of the place would properly govern the choice of those who had the selection of the books in each case.

2397. Mr. *Bunbury.*] With regard to the Cambridge University Library, is not it in practice almost exclusively a lending library?—Practically, I think it is; the library is used to a very small extent as a reading-room.

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2398. There is, in fact, no reading-room attached to it?—No.

2399. Then, at all events, till lately there were no chairs or tables to sit to read?—None.

2400. Are there any now?—Yes, there is a table and a couple of chairs in each compartment of the new library; and this building is warmed.

2401. Does it not appear to you that any large library such as that ought to combine the two objects: that it should be a library for reading as well as for lending out?—Most decidedly, in every point of view, for the preservation of the books as well as for the convenience of those who refer to them; that at Cambridge is one of the objects which they have in view ultimately, but for want of means they are not able to carry it into execution.

2402. Can you state the actual amount of funds which they have available for the library at Cambridge?—I think the whole amount is between 1,500 *l.* and 2,000 *l.*; there are two or three very heavy draws upon it; in the first place, there is the fitting up of the new building, and in every large library the cost of binding is very considerable; all the new books, especially foreign ones, immediately want binding.

2403. Mr. *Wyld.*] The university at Cambridge has the privilege of receiving all new works published?—It has, but it is under this disadvantage, that they are obliged to apply for the books; in the case of the British Museum the publisher is obliged to send them to the Stationers' Office; and Oxford and Cambridge solicited the same privilege, which was denied, and the consequence is that they have to pay a considerable sum per annum, I think it is 200 *l.*, to a collector resident in London to get the volumes that they do get.

2404. Do they receive a large amount of newly published books?—Very considerable now; much better than formerly.

2405. Do you know whether those books are preserved?—Yes.

2406. Are any of them destroyed?—None.

2407. Are they immediately accessible upon their receipt by the university?—They are; but being under the necessity of using the services of a collector, it is some weeks before we get them after they are published.

2408. They are all preserved?—They are all preserved.

2409. Mr. *Bunbury.*] All the new novels are preserved?—Yes; they do not destroy anything.

2410. Are not the new novels, in fact, a good deal used in the town through members of the university?—Yes.

2411. Mr. *Wyld.*] Do not you think that it is a very unfair use of the privilege to lend books to people in the town through members of the university?—It is much abused; but the simple rule of the university is, that each member may take out ten books by his own signature; whether it is for himself or for others you cannot ascertain.

2412. Do not you think that that course subjects publishers to great injustice: if you were an author yourself, should not you think that injustice was done to you by having your books circulated gratuitously?—I think it cuts both ways; it brings a book into notice; it is a sort of advertisement, which the book would not otherwise have. And after all they only go into a few hands, and those persons who do read them in that way would probably not buy them.

2413. Do you know the class of modern books which are most taken out of the library?—The students would never be permitted to have novels out, because the tutors give them orders by which they get the books.

2414. Do you mean that works of light literature are not withdrawn from the university libraries?—They are by members, the senior masters of arts who have the right of using the books.

2415. Do they circulate them through the town; do they lend them to their friends?—I suppose they do, more or less. If you grant the power of taking out books you cannot limit it; they must take out what they like; and that again tells both ways, for I have had applications from mechanics for the use of books in their own line. For instance, a bookbinder will come to me for a book, to see a specimen of binding; or the clerk of the works of a new building will come for a book on architecture or mechanics. I have had several applications of that description. The curator of the Botanical Garden, through the interest of

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several members of the university, gets the command of botanical works. Other instances might be quoted, to a considerable extent.

2416. You think that the practice of lending out books is beneficial?—It is upon the whole. The way in which it operates unequally is that members residing in the country take them away for a long time. They are only returnable once a quarter; and if they are not returned, there is a certain small fine payable of 1 *s.* a month; and they very often do not mind paying that fine, in order to keep the works.

2417. In fact, the members of the university have the privilege of using an author's books without any compensation for it, either to the author or to the publisher?—Yes; that, of course, is one of the great uses of a public library, that you may be able to read books without the expense of buying. Many of those who use them could not buy.

2418. Mr. *Bunbury.*] As you are extensively acquainted with the Cambridge Library do you conceive that a library of that extent, well chosen, is sufficient to answer almost all the ordinary requirements not only of ordinary readers but of literary men: are not there very few occasions on which you would not find in the library any book that is wanted?—Very few; but I imagine that if public libraries were increased in number, authors and publishers would derive great benefit; because then the numbers of copies sold would be much greater, and the number of readers generally much increased. A great number of those who read cannot possibly buy for themselves.

Mr. *John Baxter Langley*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. B. Langley.*

2419. *Chairman.*] YOU reside at Stockport?—Yes.

2420. Are you familiar with the mechanics' and scientific institutions in different parts of England?—I am.

2421. Have you been in any capacity connected with them?—I have been officially connected with them for several years; I was secretary to the Manchester Athenæum for two years, and I have been directly or indirectly connected with these institutions for 10 years nearly.

2422. What is their extent?—It is much larger than is generally supposed; I have endeavoured to make out a list of them. I think they would extend to 400 institutions, at the very least, which are now in active operation.

2423. In England and Wales?—In England and Wales alone, without Scotland or Ireland.

2424. Do you consider that the libraries form an essential part of their utility? —If it were not for the libraries they would cease to exist; they hold a continued existence in consequence of the attraction which the library affords; but there are many other modes of instruction to the working classes, by means of lectures and classes, and discussion societies.

2425. What are the works which form the component parts of the libraries?—In the libraries which are most used, fiction forms a very large proportion; in all the smaller institutions the demand is principally for the novels. In some institutions a regulation to exclude novels has been adopted, as at the Garforth Mechanics' Institution, and some other institutions; but the circulation of books is very small in those institutions compared with many others.

2426. Is the circulation of works of fiction diminishing or increasing?—It is diminishing, I should say. Where the institution is new the first demand is chiefly for works of fiction; and if you trace out the readers, you find their names attached first usually to narratives and tales, then to novels, then to biographies and histories, and then to philosophy. Some of the lecturers who have lately been popular have had very great influence upon the character of the works which have been read in many libraries, so much so that it has been impossible in some of the libraries to meet the peculiar demands which have been made upon them.

2427. What books have they given currency to?—Translations from German books; for instance, Fichte's works.

2428. Have they been the subject of lectures in the mechanics' institutes in this country?—In Mr. Dawson's lectures he has availed himself of the opportunity to speak very highly of many German authors; he has lectured upon Mr. Carlyle's works, and the attention which has been given to Mr. Carlyle's works has directed the attention of readers towards German philosophy.

2429. Are there many readers in the Mechanics' Institution who have studied the works of Kant, Fichte, and Hegel?—In Manchester there are many. The demand for that class of works has been so great that they are unable to supply them.

2430. By whom are they read?—By young men engaged in trade, and persons of all classes. A remarkable instance of the influence of the lectures upon the reading of the town was shown in the effect produced by Mr. Dawson's lectures on the character of Oliver Cromwell. All the books on the subject at that time were out of the libraries in the town.

2431. Do you consider lectures a very material instrument in promoting literary knowledge in modern times?—I do. They seem to exercise a very important influence as to the character of books taken out of the library.

2432. Has the number of lecturers much increased in the country?—Yes, very much.

2433. More able men are now employed as lecturers than were?—Yes, a clever man now is enabled to devote his whole attention to lecturing as a profession.

2434. Cannot a lecturer of considerable popularity support himself tolerably well by delivering lectures throughout the country?—I should say he might make from 500 *l.* to 1,000 *l.* a year.

2435. Has not there been a scheme proposed for establishing a combined system of lecturing; so that York, Leeds, Sheffield, and various places, might agree in having the same lecturer, who should go from one town to another, making a kind of circuit?—A great many such proposals have been made. The only one which has thoroughly succeeded is the Yorkshire Union Mechanics' Institute. There is one in the midland counties of the same character, and another for Lancashire and Cheshire. They have also adopted a similar plan in Scotland; but I believe the plan has never been carried out properly.

2436. Can you give the Committee any idea of the relative increase of those lecturers within your experience; are they more numerous than they were when you were first acquainted with the mechanics' institutes?—I should say they have doubled within the last 10 years.

2437. And men of much higher attainments now deliver lectures?—Yes.

2438. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Are the lectures better attended than they used to be?—In some places lectures have been overdone. Lecturing now having become so profitable, a great many persons have engaged in it who are quite unable to please an audience. Mr. Dawson has proved one of the most popular lecturers at the present time; but whenever he visits a new institution, it is very rare to find a good attendance the first evening.

2439. *Chairman.*] On what subjects are the lectures given?—Lectures on literary subjects succeed best. A man must have a very happy talent for lecturing if he succeeds in making scientific lectures popular. Dr. Carpenter, Professor Nichol, Dr. Knox, and one or two more, have succeeded as scientific lecturers; but the majority of them have failed.

2440. Are not many persons who lecture now, persons who have taken a degree in some university?—Yes, or occupy some official position. It is exceedingly difficult to get a standing as lecturer now, and to lecture successfully, compared with what it was a few years ago.

2441. You think that the system of lecturing is extending itself?—Very much, especially in smaller institutions.

2442. Might they not at once economize as to the expense of lectures for the public, and at the same time render them more profitable to the lecturers, by a system of establishing circuits for lecturers such as were alluded to just now?—Certainly; at present the best lecturers, the very first-rate men, secure all the engagements, and men of moderate abilities, who are very good lecturers, get no engagements at all. There are many men who would be glad to take lower terms, but there is a sort of etiquette amongst the institutions that they seldom or never pay less than five guineas a lecture, and it is a fashion with lecturers never to take less.

2443. You seem to think that libraries and lectures are the principal sources of

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of the prosperity of mechanics' institutions?—Lectures unquestionably do not pay; the permanent success of the institutions depends completely upon the libraries. Where the institutions have either not the advantage of a large gift of books from some benevolent party, or where they have not succeeded in making a large collection of books, they are upon the most insecure footing, and many of them die out for a year or two, and then during that time with the improvement of trade they are resuscitated; but they hold no continued existence unless they have a library.

2444. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Do you think that lectures increase the taste for reading?—Decidedly; I think that is the great advantage of lectures.

2445. *Chairman.*] Those lectures are attended by females as well as men?—Yes, in a larger proportion.

2446. And they extend a taste for reading very much among the female classes of society?—Very much.

2447. Do you think that you have observed a very sensible improvement in the tone of the working classes in the towns with which you have been conversant?—I have seen members of mechanics' institutions occupy very much higher positions in society in consequence of having had these opportunities of improvement. Many individuals in different parts of the country, both agricultural and manufacturing districts, have risen from the lowest occupations to hold high and responsible positions.

2448. Are their general habits much improved?—Very much improved; I believe that the spread of temperance has had a very great effect upon the mechanics' institutions.

2449. Do you experience any difficulties in the formation of libraries for mechanics' institutions?—Very great difficulties; sometimes owing to the smallness of the funds; and sometimes in mechanics' institutions, and especially at the outset of them, there is a straight-lacedness of opinion about the books admitted. Some of the institutions are more liberal in the list of works they admit, but some of them would exclude a history that they thought was at all doubtful in its opinions.

2450. Mr. *Wyld.*] When you say "straight-lacedness," did you apply that to political matters?—Political and theological. Some of them would exclude all theological books whatever; they would exclude Paley's Natural Theology.

2451. In the choice of their books, do you find the committees swayed by any political bias?—They are in some places. In some they object to either politics or theology; but whether they would go so far as to exclude any book that treated upon the subject, I am not sure.

2452. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Are not works of religious controversy and works on politics generally excluded?—Generally.

2453. Is that advantageous or disadvantageous?—I think in some of the institutions it is much too strictly enforced. Many of those works would be very acceptable indeed to persons who cannot otherwise obtain them.

2454. *Chairman.*] What works?—Works upon controversial theology. I know that a copy of Channing's works was recently presented to a mechanics institution in Lancashire and it was rejected, and during the few hours it was in the library there were a great number of applications for the use of it.

2455. Mr. *Bunbury.*] It was rejected on account of its theological tendency?—Yes, it was objected to upon that ground.

2456. Mr. *Wyld.*] Do the committees choose the books?—Yes; a sub-committee of the general board, called the library committee.

2457. Are they chosen according to the recommendation of the general body of subscribers?—They are recommended to them by the subscribers in a book used for that purpose generally, and the committee accept or reject the books recommended. They usually buy a great many more books than those recommended to them by the subscribers.

2458. *Chairman.*] Can you suggest any mode of improving the libraries of the mechanics' institutions?—If some plan could be adopted by which the standard works could be increased, it would be very desirable. In the case of many of them

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them which do possess standard works, the books are so worn as to be quite unfit for use, and others are unable to purchase them. As an instance of the use of books, I may mention the Pictorial History of England, published by Knight; in the libraries of Manchester there is not a copy that is fit to be used.

2459. Have the corporations in any of the towns taken an interest in establishing libraries?—In the list of institutions which I have here, there are one or two which have the property in the library. In East Retford the whole of the property is vested in the town council; they take a considerable interest in it.

2460. Have they made additions to it?—I believe they have.

2461. Do you think that if they had the power of levying a small rate, it might be advantageously made use of by the town councils for the purpose of instituting or extending libraries?—I think it would be very desirable, if such a plan could be adopted.

2462. You have prepared some tables to lay before the committee?—I have.

2463. What is the purport of those tables?—They show the character of the various mechanics' institutions; the number of members compared with the population in the towns of England and Wales; the classes of persons who avail themselves of such institutions; the subscriptions; the number of volumes in the library, and the yearly total issue from each of those libraries.

2464. That applies exclusively to the libraries of mechanics' institutions?—Yes.

2465. Have you taken great pains to make these returns correct?—I have been at work upon these nearly three years, and they hardly satisfy me in the form in which I present them at present; there is much difficulty in getting information at all; many of the secretaries are not paid for what they do, and they are very lethargic in answering questions you put to them; more than half the information has been obtained by personal visits to the institutions, and personal examination of the libraries.

2466. What is the nature of the information which you have here given?—The name of the town, the population, the name of the institution, the character of of the institution, the number of members in it in the year 1847, the class of persons belonging to the institution, the quarterly subscription, the number of volumes in the library, the total issue of volumes in the year, and remarks upon the peculiarities of the institution.

2467. Mr. *Hamilton.*] With what object were these returns prepared?—I have always taken great interest in these institutions; I had an idea at one time that I should probably publish something upon the subject, but, with the exception of a list which was published in the People's Journal Almanac, I have never published the information.

2468. *Chairman.*] Can you state what is the number of books altogether in the libraries of mechanics' institutions?—No; it would be a very immense number.

2469. Comprising a very miscellaneous catalogue?—Yes.

2470. What is the number of members in the mechanics' institutions altogether?—I have seen no statement approaching to an accurate estimate. I believe it has been said to be something about 16,000. But there are two institutions in Manchester alone which have 4,000 members and upwards. I think I could name half a dozen towns whose total number of members would be equal to 16,000. The total number of issues of books seems to be very nearly three times the number of the whole volumes in the library. They vary very much, but there is a frequent correspondence of that kind.

2471. Mr. *Hamilton.*] At Manchester the Athenæum comprises 2,000 members; is that institution chiefly amongst the operatives or amongst the higher classes at Manchester?—The members are chiefly young men employed in the warehouses. The Mechanics' Institution in Manchester has more of an educational character about it, and those are persons connected in various ways with the manufactures of the town.

2472. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Does not the Athenæum partake very much of the character of a club?—It used to be more social than it is now. The classification I have endeavoured to carry out in those Tables is founded upon the distinctions which exist. Some institutions carry out a system of amusements, such

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as concerts, tea parties, balls, and the like; others give their sole attention to classes, and those I have termed educational; others are of a more simple description, and chiefly consist of means of mutual improvement.

2473. Mr. *Hamilton.*] The Tables are taken from the returns you have received from the different institutions?—Yes.

2474. The accuracy of those returns has been in many cases ascertained by your own personal inspection?—Yes.

2475. *Chairman.*] Will you have the goodness to hand in those Tables. (*The same were delivered in.*)

Vide Appendix.

2476. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Have you observed latterly any difference in the class of persons who are members of those societies. Do you think that the members are rising in the scale of society, or that the operatives are continuing, as they see at first, to be the members?—I think that the members who have joined those institutions themselves rise in society, and the character of the institution itself improves with the individuals very often.

2477. Mr. *Wyld.*] They rise in consequence of the advantage which they receive from those mechanics' institutions?—Yes.

2478. In many parts of England, is not this the only education which the population have?—The only mode of which they will avail themselves.

2479. *Chairman.*] The habits of the working classes are much more temperate than they were?—Very much.

2480. And improving?—Yes. The discussion societies in many of those institutions are places well worthy of a visit. They are of a much more temperate character in their debates than they used to be. Those societies exercise a considerable influence upon the libraries. The subject undergoing discussion in the discussion society invariably leads to a corresponding demand for works referring to it in the library.

2481. *Chairman.*] Do you consider that the demand for books on the part of the labouring classes has very considerably increased of late years?—Very much; but a very large proportion of them now are unable to read for want of time.

2482. Do not you think it desirable that they should have libraries open to them in the evening?—It will be found upon looking over those Tables that where the libraries are not open in the evening the issue of books is very small indeed, compared with those which are open in the evening.

2483. Mr. *Wyld.*] Has your attention been directed to any of the mining or colliery districts in England?—Some of them.

2484. Are there any mechanics' institutions and libraries existing in the colliery districts?—Yes; in different parts of them.

2485. Take Bilston and Wednesbury, for example?—At Wednesbury there is a Mutual Improvement Society, containing 100 members, who are chiefly miners; the subscription is 2*s.* 6*d.* a quarter. There are 1,100 volumes in the library, and the issues for the year 1847 were nearly 3,000.

2486. Take the Barnsley district again?—I do not see any return for Barnsley. Barnsley has an institution of which I can get no information. I have given in a supplementary list of the institutions which I have not been able to visit.

2487. Have you any information of the South Wales colliery district; say Swansea and Merthyr Tydvil?—There is great difficulty in getting any information from Wales. I have no return from Swansea.

2488. From your experience of the institutions in the colliery districts, do you know whether the miners are in attendance upon those institutions and readers of the books?—I believe that if they had the means of obtaining libraries, there would be mechanics' institutions in active operation in all the small villages in the colliery districts.

2489. Do you know of the existence of any institutions among them, such as those of which you have been speaking?—I know of small village libraries in many of those places, but they are more of the character of private societies.

2490. Are they frequented by the working colliers?—They are formed by the colliers.

2491. Have

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2491. Have you made any observation upon the habits of the colliers who frequent those institutions?—Yes, many.

2492. Can you say whether there is any improvement in consequence of their attendance at those institutions?—I have met with some very intelligent men who are working colliers, who have attended those institutions which they have themselves formed.

2493. In those institutions situated in the colliery districts, do you find works referring to the coal trade, such as on geology?—No.

2494. Do the studies of the colliers, as far as your experience goes, relate more to general literature?—Yes, or to matters of politics or theology; in some places attempts have been made to carry out mechanics' institutions; but in consequence of the exclusion of political and religious works the colliers have not taken part in them.

2495. Are there any works in the institutions of which you speak relating to the particular trades carried on in the neighbourhood?—Not that I know of; it is a remarkable circumstance that in the manufacturing districts works upon the steam-engine, and similar works, which would be useful to those constantly attending the library, are comparatively little read.

2496. Mr. *Hamilton.*] To what do you attribute that?—Many of them have an impression that they know more about the steam-engine than anybody else can tell them; and the same with regard to the power-loom; and the same with lectures. Lectures upon geology in the different coal districts attract little or no attention.

2497. Under the head of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, there appears to be but one institution, with 400 members; the population of Newcastle-upon-Tyne is, of course, very large?—The population is 90,000.

2498. There is a large population of seafaring men there, masters of vessels and sailors?—Yes.

2499. Are there any libraries to which they have access?—Not that I know of. The mechanics' institution there is only attended by tradesmen.

2500. Again, at Liverpool, where there is a very large population of the same kind, it seems that there are but 3,123 members in the mechanics' institution. Can you say whether the masters of vessels or the seamen there have any libraries to which they have access?—Not that I know of.

2501. At Portsmouth can you state whether there are any?—At Portsmouth the Athenæum has 305 members; they are chiefly tradesmen. The activity of the institution is generally manifested by the number of books taken out. They have only 700 volumes, but the circulation in the year is 2,500.

2502. *Chairman.*] Is there anything else which you wish to state to the Committee?—With respect to parochial libraries, I recollect seeing one at Sutton Courtney, in Oxfordshire. The books there are chained to a desk. I may observe, that there is a good deal of difficulty experienced on account of many places where the libraries would be established being subject to rates.

2503. Mr. *Wyld.*] In the mechanics' institutions have they many illustrated works?—A great many in some of the large institutions; but they are eschewing that kind of literature, because it is apt to get damaged so soon, and many works of high art are so expensive. Many of them are only allowed to be looked at for reference.

2504. Do the working classes engaged in manufactures connected with design consult those works much at the institutions?—Not so much as one would expect, unless there are some lectures that call attention to them. I recollect that at the time when Mr. Wallis was lecturing upon the subject of painting and design, there was an increased demand for works of that character.

Jovis, 17° *die Maii*, 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Kershaw.	Mr. Thicknesse.
Mr. Brotherton.	Mr. Hamilton.
Mr. Wyld.	Mr. Ewart.

WILLIAM EWART, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Eugene Curry*; Examined.

Mr. *Eugene Curry*.

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2505. Mr. *Hamilton*.] YOU were engaged, I believe, in the Ordnance Survey of Ireland?—I was.

2506. Will you state in what manner you were employed in connexion with that survey?—I was engaged on the Antiquarian Department of it, collecting local information bearing on the localities in Ireland. In the first instance, the purpose was to fix the proper orthography of the names of such localities, and to identify them with passages in ancient Irish manuscripts and records; the object of fixing the orthography was to put the correct name on the Ordnance Survey map.

2507. How are you now engaged?—I am at present engaged in making accurate transcripts of ancient Irish manuscripts, translating them, and assisting in editing them for different literary societies.

2508. Are you connected with the Royal Irish Academy?—Yes.

2509. The translation of the Brehon Laws, I believe, is your present engagement?—My present occupation is on a tract connected with the ancient Brehon Laws, which I have copied from a manuscript in the University library of Dublin for the Academy, at the expense of the Academy.

2510. That employment has, doubtless, brought you into connexion with many of the principal libraries in Dublin?—With Trinity College library and the Royal Irish Academy's library alone.

2511. Will you state to the Committee whether there is any library in Dublin open to the public?—I do not know any library open to the public, except Archbishop Marsh's Library.

2512. With reference to the Trinity College library, can you inform the Committee whether that library is confined to parties who have been themselves educated in the college, or to what extent is it open to the public?—It is open, in the first instance, to parties educated in the college, and, secondly, to those of the public who take the prescribed oath, and are recommended by two Fellows of the college; they are sworn to certain matters as regards the library, and they have then free access to all the books in the library. All persons must take the oath, those educated as well as those not educated in the college. If any person wished to consult a particular book or manuscript in the college, he would be allowed to do so by the librarian, but not in the library; the book or manuscript is brought to him at the librarian's room, and he is allowed every accommodation there for the purpose of using it.

2513. So that, in fact, free access is not given to the public to the library of Trinity College?—No; no further than I have stated.

2514. Subject to the conditions you have stated, is there any difficulty placed in the way of any parties who are desirous of going there to read?—No other difficulty than the difficulty of gaining access to the librarian, for those who are not educated in the college. Parties who are not educated in the college have some difficulty sometimes to find the librarian disengaged from other pursuits, and able to attend to them.

2515. Supposing a tradesman of Dublin to be desirous of reading in the library, can he, by taking the library oath, obtain free access to it?—Yes, he can do so, by taking the oath, if he is recommended first to a Fellow by some person who knows him. If the Fellow says, I recommend such a person to read in the library, and he gets another Fellow to sign that, that is laid before the Board on board-days, and approved of, and then he takes the oath, and has free access, no matter who he is, whether he is a tradesman or anything or of any other calling.

2516. What is the purport of the oath?—As well as I know, it is that the books shall not be damaged or taken away.

2517. Is there a lending library also attached to the library at Trinity College?—There is.

2518. What parties are admissible to that lending library?—All the students of the college.

2519. Is it confined to students?—It is confined to students.

2520. What is the nature of the books contained in that library?—I have a catalogue of the books here; they are books which are generally requisite for study in the University; it was instituted for the purpose of sparing students of slender means the expense of supplying themselves with the necessary books for their studies.

2521. *Chairman.*] They make considerable additions to the Trinity College library do not they?—They do, every year, very large additions; they appropriate about 1,000*l.* a year to making additions to the library, and dispose of it in the purchase of home and foreign works.

2522. Mr. *Hamilton.*] They have a right, have they not, to a copy of each work which is published?—Yes, that has not been taken away from them.

2523. Are new books available at once?—Not at once; they are available to Fellows, and to those who are qualified to read in the library; but they are not placed in the library till they are entered on the books of the college, and bound, and then they are put into the library in the proper place.

2524. *Chairman.*] What library do you consider to be the next important in Dublin to Trinity College library?—In the number of books I should say the Queen's Inn's library, the Law Library.

2525. Does it contain any but law books?—Yes.

2526. Is that accessible to the public?—No.

2527. Not under any circumstances?—To the public, certainly not.

2528. Can a person, by obtaining a recommendation, acquire the privilege of going to that library to read?—No, not unless it is the will of the librarian; I do not know whether he has any power to admit a person, but I know it is done very often; a person is allowed to consult a particular book or tract in it.

2529. What is the number of the books in the Queen's Inn's library?—About 30,000.

2530. Do they make additions to it?—Yes, every year; they had the right also to a copy of all books published, but that was taken from them, and now they have a grant instead, which they lay out, in the first instance, in the purchase of law books, and, if any surplus remains after that, they dispose of it in the purchase of other books.

2531. Have any complaints ever been made of the Queen's Inn's library not being more open to the public?—Yes; I think it is felt to be a hardship in Dublin, that it is not open to the public.

2532. Mr. *Hamilton.*] I presume lawyers and attornies have the right of access?—Yes; the persons who have the right are, in the first place, the Benchers, Barristers, Law Students who have paid the prescribed fees, Attornies, Solicitors, and, by an act of the library within the last twelve months, the Proctors in the Ecclesiastical and Admiralty Courts are allowed to read in it now.

2533. Is Marsh's Library considered accessible to the public in Dublin?—It is the only one which is accessible; any person may be recommended there, and any respectable person may recommend another person; a person must be recommended; but there are no other conditions but that.

2534. Is the librarian the judge of the propriety of admitting him upon recommendation?—He is; there is no control, I believe, over him.

2535. Are you acquainted with the library belonging to the Dublin Society?—I am.

2536. Can persons not members of the Dublin Society obtain admission to read in that library?—Yes, the regulations would not allow parties to read generally; but parties who wish to use the library, and who have not misconducted themselves, or injured the books, can readily obtain a fresh introduction and read; and parties known to the librarian to be trustworthy, are generally given the greatest amount of liberty to read in the library and refer to the books, so that any literary or scientific person in Dublin finds little or no difficulty in getting access to the library of the Dublin Society.

2537. In point of fact, do many of the tradesmen and middle classes in Dublin frequent that library?—Not many, but some do; we generally confine the term tradesman, in Ireland, to a person who has learned a trade.

2538. Do people of that sort read in the library?—Some do, but very few; but they have no difficulty in the mode of gaining access to it.

2539. How is that library supported?—There is a special appropriation of 500*l.* per annum for the purchase of books out of the general grant of Parliament.

2540. *Chairman.*] The grant itself to the Dublin Society is about 6,000 *l.* a year, is not it?--Yes.

2541. Do you think that library might be made still more open to the public?—I think it might.

2542. Is it a lending library?—No.

2543. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Have the members of the Dublin Society any special privilege connected with the library?--Yes, they have the power of borrowing books, and seeing all new purchases; for a month after their publication they are deposited in the private conversation room of the members, so that the visitors to the library have not access to those books for a month after their delivery.

2544. The lending department is confined to the members of the society?—Yes; after that period has elapsed, if the book is one of general interest, it is sure to be borrowed out by one member after another, so that many months may elapse before it is ready for the use of mere visitors to the library.

2545. So that the public, in fact, have not the advantage of new works for a considerable time?—No; the members have that privilege of borrowing.

2546. Do those who borrow pay any additional subscription?—None whatever; they are parties who pay a life subscription of 21 *l.* to the society.

2547. Is the collection of books in the library of a general character?—Yes, they have a very fine collection of pamphlets, perhaps the best in Dublin; pamphlets reaching down from, perhaps, the year 1660 to the year 1790.

2548. Are you acquainted with the library which is called the Dublin Library?—I am.

2549. What is the nature of that library?—It was a library which was set up by subscription about the year 1790, I think; the house was built by subscription; the collection of books for some years has been stationary; they have not added anything for many years.

2550. Is it a large library?—About 13,000 volumes.

2551. What is the nature of the books, are they of a general character?—They are.

2552. Is it open freely to the public?—No, not at all freely, except that the librarian may allow a person to consult any particular book; if you say you wish to consult any particular book, he will allow you to look at it.

2553. There is a library connected with the Royal Irish Academy?—There is.

2554. What is the character of that library?—The works are generally scientific and antiquarian.

2555. What is the amount of the Parliamentary Grant to that library?—About 300*l.* a year.

2556. Do they receive anything more than that?—No.

2557. Are additions made to that library in each year?—Yes.

2558. Out of what fund?—The principal additions are made by an exchange of the transactions with almost all the respectable acadamies and literary societies of Europe; they send their transactions, and receive in return the transactions of all other societies.

2559. Do they add to the library modern books not of a scientific character?—No, I think not, except periodical works, reviews and such publications as those.

2560. Is that library accessible to the public?—No.

2561. Under what circumstances can any person obtain admission to it?—Upon the recommendation of a member.

2562. Is it much frequented by the people in Dublin?—It is a good deal by scientific and antiquarian students, but I should say that any person coming there and presenting himself to the librarian, would be shown the book which he wanted, liberally.

2563. The Royal Irish Academy is supported by subscriptions as well as by a

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Parliamentary Grant is not it?—It is, by the annual subscriptions of the members.

2564. Have any considerable additions been made to its catalogue, either of books or manuscripts, recently?—Yes, very considerable additions.

2565. How are they obtained?—By the private subscription of the members, and of the public at large; first of the members, and if that will not come up to the sum required, there is an appeal to the public; four or five years ago, the house of Hodges & Smith, publishers in Dublin, had a collection of ancient Irish manuscripts to sell; they offered them to the Academy for a large sum of money; the members of the Academy raised among themselves, and by an appeal to the public, about 700*l*., and the Government added 600*l*., making in the whole about 1,300*l*., which was the price of the manuscripts, and they became the property of the Academy.

2566. Were they of a very valuable and interesting character?—Exceedingly so.

2567. Had they relation to Irish history?—Yes, and Irish families; when I say Irish, I include in that all the families residing in Ireland for the last 600 years.

2568. Have any other manuscripts been added in the same manner?—There was another collection, Sir William Betham's collection; his collection has been recently added, though not exactly paid for yet. The Academy, in the pressing circumstances of the country, were unable to raise the sum of 500*l*., which he consented to sell his manuscripts for; they were only able to raise 250*l*. or thereabouts, which they handed over to him, and he placed the manuscripts with them, on the condition that if they were not able to raise the remainder within a year, he was to take the manuscripts back and refund the money.

2569. Are the books in the library of the Royal Irish Academy lent out?—Yes, the books are lent out to members only, but not the manuscripts.

2570. Is the collection of manuscripts in Trinity College library valuable?—Yes; it is both large and valuable.

2571. Are they principally Irish manuscripts?—No; the Irish manuscripts make but a small part of the collection.

2572. Have the Irish manuscripts in the Royal Irish Academy and in the Trinity College library, been applied to any practical and useful purposes in Ireland?—They have.

2573. Will you explain in what their interest consists?—Their importance was found first in relation to the Irish Ordnance Survey; when the surveyors went out to measure the country, they had recourse to all the existing English documents containing the names of the townlands and parishes and baronies, but having found the names set down in one document, when they consulted another document they found those names differently spelt, and there was such a difference in point of orthography between the various documents, that they were at a loss to know how to enter the name; they then determined to consult the Irish manuscripts of the country, which probably might contain the true orthography, and George Petrie, Esq., and Mr. John O'Donovan were employed for that purpose, and I was employed shortly after to assist in it; we consulted all the Irish manuscripts in Dublin, or accessible in Ireland for that purpose, and collected from them all the names of places we could, identifying them with the localities to which they properly belonged; as, for instance, when we went into a county, the surveyors went and took down all the names as they found them; they also had persons in Dublin to examine all the ancient documents, and take down all their names from inquisitions, leases and various other old documents; those were also sent out to the locality, and compared with the existing name, but it was invariably found that those names travelled far from the true orthography. While that was going on, I was in Dublin, engaged in reading those ancient manuscripts, and it seldom happened that I did not find in some document the very name which was wanted, and even where we did not find the name, from our own knowledge of the language we were able to correct the corrupt form and assign the true one. Before that time the addition to the collection of manuscripts was not much looked to, but when men of real understanding saw the value of them, they made every effort to add to the collection; they collected from all parts of the country any straggling remnant of Irish literature which remained, and they have been coming into the College library and the Academy library ever since.

2574. Had learned men turned their attention very much to that subject, before the time you have spoken of?—It was about the year 1750, that Dr. O'Sullivan, who was one of the Fellows of the college, made some collections of Irish manuscripts, but I do not know that from that time down to the present, the Fellows of the college have paid much attention to it; Dr. Todd, however, and the Rev. Charles Greaves, both Fellows of the college, have recently paid much attention, and much to their own satisfaction, to the study of Irish literature and the explanation of those documents.

2575. Can you state whether the Irish manuscripts, since attention has been turned to them, have created much interest in England and in Scotland as well as in Ireland?—I think very much so, both in England and Scotland.

2576. In what manner has that been shown?—I cannot judge of what is going on in England, but looking to the last publication of the British Association, and the papers presented to it by Chevalier Bunsen and Dr. Meyer, and Mr. Leatham, the Committee will see the view they have of the importance of Irish manuscripts.

2577. *Chairman.*] Are there not manuscripts relating to Ireland existing now in the Burgundian Library at Brussels?—Yes, a very important collection.

2578. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Have they been examined by Irish scholars?—Certainly; Mr. Bindon, who made a catalogue of them, is not an Irish scholar exactly.

2579. *Chairman.*] Are you aware whether the Belgian Government has thrown open to the public the Burgundian Library in all its departments?—Yes, I am told there is no difficulty in gaining access to it.

2580. Are you at all acquainted with foreign libraries?—No; my acquaintance with foreign libraries is only as far as Irish matters are contained in them.

2581. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Have not the Irish manuscripts excited an interest on the Continent as well as in England and Ireland?—Very much interest indeed.

2582. *Chairman.*] What is the great point of interest in the Irish manuscripts?—The history of language, and the migrations of men.

2583. Mr. *Wyld.*] The connexion of the Irish nation with the ancient Scandinavian race?—Yes.

2584. That is the particular object of the researches of Chevalier Bunsen, is it not?—Yes, and Dr. Pritchard the same.

2585. *Chairman.*] Are not the remaining manuscripts in Ireland very much scattered, and in a worse state of arrangement than those of any other country?—Yes.

2586. Some have been carried away by exiles to different countries?—Yes.

2587. Mr. *Hamilton.*] As indicating the interest felt on the Continent in Irish manuscripts, was not there a tract or manuscript discovered in the College library which excited considerable interest in Denmark?—Yes, it was a tract upon the Danish wars in Ireland, which was discovered in the College, though in a very mutilated state; the copy might be as old as the year 1350, from the character of the writing, but though it was very interesting, it was useless for any purpose of publication till the collection at Brussels was discovered; in that collection there was a perfect copy of the tract in the handwriting of Michael O'Clery, who was the chief of the persons called the "Four Masters," who compiled the annals of Ireland in the year 1636.

2588. *Chairman.*] There are collections of some Irish manuscripts in the Bibliothèque Nationale at Paris, are not there, as well as in the Vatican, and in the libraries of Germany and Spain?—Yes, and some in Switzerland.

2589. Looking back to the early history of Ireland, since those manuscripts have been discovered, it may be said, may it not, that the early history of Ireland remains yet to be written?—Quite so; the histories which have been written are histories of men's imagination, and not of Ireland. The tract to which I refer I had the good fortune to meet with; it was bound up with a large collection of tracts in a book, but I was allowed to cut it out and take it home; it was quite black; I cleaned it after my own fashion, and made it legible, as well as I could. It was much damaged at the corners of the leaves, and it had suffered many losses; the first leaf was lost, and some leaves from the middle, and a considerable part of the end of it. I transcribed the part of it which remained. At that time we did not know of the existence of another copy, and were quite unprepared to make any use of it by publishing it in its integrity; but when the collection at Brussels was discovered, Dr. Todd took my transcript with him to Brussels, and collated it with the manuscript there, and made the tract perfect in all the parts that were lost; that being done, Mr. Warsae, a gentleman connected with the Society of Northern Antiquaries in Copenhagen, visited Dublin about two

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two years ago, and the nature of this tract was explained to him; he took a note of it, which he laid before the Society of Antiquaries on his return to Copenhagen, and we had a letter from the society, signed by the Crown Prince, who is now King, offering pecuniary assistance for its publication, as well as to collate it with all the tracts on the Danish connexion with these countries remaining in their own libraries, and offering to illustrate the text by notes from those collections of their own; but the state of affairs in Ireland precluded our being able to avail ourselves of that offer; it would be expensive, and require a great deal of illustration, and, notwithstanding that we have the back-bone of the matter here, there are many other bones and minor matters which should attach themselves to it for publication, to make it truly valuable.

2590. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Out of those Irish manuscripts, have many modern publications of interest in Ireland, and considered in some degree the literature of the country, arisen?—Yes; in the first instance the Ordnance Memoir of the county of Derry, embracing the city and nearly the county of Derry, was published. That will show at once the use of the Irish manuscripts. They were so useful, that the British Association, which had its meeting in Dublin at the time of publishing it, strongly recommended to Government to continue the publication of such memoirs to the whole country, for the purpose of bringing those very curious stores of historical matter before the public. When the Ordnance Memoir was stopped, and the persons engaged in it having become acquainted with Irish manuscripts were cast loose, the Archæological Society sprang into existence, and collected them again, and set them to work to publish, not a detailed history, but separate tracts, with illustrations of their contents, and topographical and historical notes. It has published, I believe, 12 volumes within the last six or seven years, and they have been very favourably received by the public. They are not all Irish, but principally they are Irish. However, as yet none of the important tracts on the history of language, and migrations and separations of races and families, have been published by the society, merely because their funds are not equal to the expense, which should be considerable.

2591. A society called the Celtic Society, has also been founded?—Yes.

2952. Has it published anything?—It has published one tract, called "The Book of Rights;" and the Academy and College have given every facility of access to these two societies.

2593. Was not there an Irish Penny Journal published?—There was; and the work is so much sought for, even now, by people from this country and other countries, that you cannot get a copy of it.

2594. Was it in extensive circulation among the middle and lower classes in Ireland?—Yes; it disposed of about 30,000 copies a week.

2595. Those societies comprehended men in Ireland of all parties, did they not?—Yes, they did, and they do still.

2596. And the establishment of this species of literature operates to soften down the asperities existing in that country?—I think so, very much.

2597. Do you think that the diffusion of correct historical knowledge, with reference to the history of Ireland, has the effect of removing prejudices, instead of creating them?—I think it has; I think truth will work well at any time.

2598. Can you state what other libraries there are in Dublin; is there not a Mechanics' Institution?—There is a Mechanics' Institute.

2599. Has that a large library?—About 4,000 books; I am acquainted with the library.

2600. Is it much frequented?—It is very much frequented by young men in the position of clerks in public offices, and mercantile clerks, and handicraft men, and tradesmen, masons, carpenters and men of that class.

2601. What is the character of the books in it?—There are some scientific books, and books of general literature.

2602. Is it, on the whole, a good collection?—It is a very sound collection.

2603. Can you state whether the Dublin Mechanics' Institute lend out books?—They do to members only; the subscription is very low, 10*s.* a year.

2604. Are you acquainted with any other of the libraries in Ireland?—No, I am not.

2605. Have any gifts or presents of Irish manuscripts or antiquities been made to the Royal Irish Academy recently?—There have been; formerly there were some very important gifts; shortly after the foundation of the Academy in 1787, a very important manuscript was presented to it by the Irish College in Paris; it is a book known as "The Book of Lecan."

2606. What is the nature of that book?—Historical and genealogical tracts; the histories and pedigrees of ancient families, and poems on ancient Eastern history.

2607. Does the Irish Academy lend any manuscripts for transcription?—No.

2608. Have they borrowed any?—They have borrowed several.

2609. From what quarter?—They have borrowed from Lord Roden a manuscript, of which I made a copy, known as "MacFirbis' Genealogies and Collections of Irish Pedigrees and Anglo-Norman Pedigrees, brought down to the year 1666." It is considered that the histories of those Norman families in Ireland could never be written without it. The Marquis of Kildare has made a collection of notes for the illustration of his family history, so has Lord Glengall, and so have several Irish families. The Duke of Devonshire lent the Academy a printed manuscript, found in the old castle of Lismore, built into the wall, in the year 1814; it is a large volume on vellum, written about the year 1360; it contains some very valuable old tracts on the primitive Christians of Ireland, the founding of churches, their travels into this country and the Continent, and the foundation of churches in those countries. In those tracts are preserved the ancient names of places and of men, which are not found, perhaps, so correctly in any other document.

2610. Of what date are those manuscripts?—This manuscript I speak of was about the year 1360, but it contained copies of older tracts; MacFirbis' manuscript was compiled in 1666. But the Academy possesses many other manuscripts ranging in date from the year of our Lord 800 down to 1800.

2611. *Chairman.*] Can you give the Committee any account of the provincial libraries existing in different parts of Ireland?—No.

2612. There is one at Armagh, is there not?—Yes, there is one there; they are very scarce, I am sorry to say; there is a library at Waterford, though I cannot give the particulars; I know it is doing very well; there is a Mechanics' Institute at Waterford, and one at Clonmel, which are succeeding very well.

2613. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Do not you think, in the present state of things in Ireland, the establishment of libraries to which the public might have access, would be exceedingly desirable?—I do not know any act of the Government that would be so prudent, nor be followed with such beneficial results, as the establishment of a good library in the provincial towns and in Dublin.

2614. *Chairman.*] You think that that would combine persons of various opinions?—It would; and it would enable them to combine with much more propriety and for purposes of much more utility than they have hitherto been in the habit of meeting for; it would enlighten them, and teach them toleration.

2615. Has not the Royal Irish Academy contributed very much, in its own way, to the effecting of that object?—I do not know any institution which has done so much; look at the list of its members, and you will find it is composed of men of all parties; Protestant ministers, Presbyterian ministers, Roman Catholic priests and Roman Catholic as well as Protestant gentlemen.

2616. Meeting on neutral ground for a common object?—Meeting and reading the papers there; there is no person there more respected than Dr. Callan, one of the Professors in Maynooth College; Sir Robert Kane is also a Roman Catholic; he is a very distinguished member of the council. No men are more respected there than the Roman Catholic priests; they are frequently there, and the college library also is now very frequently visited by Roman Catholic priests.

2617. Mr. *Wyld.*] Do they receive a large number of new books in the college?—They do; a very large number; they receive a copy of every book which is published, at the college library.

2618. Are the new books which they receive kept in good order?—In the best possible order.

2619. Do they preserve a copy of every book which is sent to them?—Yes.

2620. Are they easily accessible?—They are easily accessible; there is a rigid form, however, which must be adhered to.

2621. *Chairman.*] What is the state of the library catalogues in Ireland?—I think the catalogue at the Mechanics' Institute is the best among them all; a University library catalogue is in course of compilation and is partly printed, but it is an enormous thing, and requires a good deal of time to make it. The Royal Irish Academy has

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has manuscript catalogues, but no published catalogue; their funds are very low, and they are making large collections of the more important fragments and histories of the monuments of the country, expending any surplus funds they have upon that collection.

2622. Is not it very desirable, before they begin to work upon the materials supplied by those manuscripts, that they should know what they really have, by having good catalogues of the libraries?—Yes; but the difficulty is, that while they have catalogues drawn up, an article comes into the market which would pass away from the country if it were not purchased; and sooner than let it pass away from the country, they purchase it.

2623. You think that a greater number of libraries and greater accessibility to the existing libraries, would be a very welcome and very beneficial concession to the Irish people?—I think so; I think a library in Dublin would be of very great value to the middle classes, and to the lower classes. You could scarcely make the University library a public library; there is not accommodation for the public, and the books are not of the sort which would interest the public; there are no works of fiction in the library; it is not exactly the thing for the public at large. But if you set up a general library in Dublin, which should be freely accessible to the public, you would confer a very great benefit upon it, and would not interfere with any of those public libraries at all.

2624. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Is there a library at Cork?—I do not think there is.

2625. Is not it very desirable that there should be libraries in all the large towns?—Yes, and in the small towns too; because I think libraries have a tendency to make towns, and to make respectable towns. In some of the small and rising villages, and rising they are still in Ireland, if there were a library placed under proper control, I think it would instruct the people, and make them become better townsmen than they are.

2626. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Under what control would you place such libraries?—That is a matter which I should not wish to go into; I would leave that to the wisdom of Parliament.

2627. *Chairman.*] Has not education been very much extended in Ireland of late years?—Very much.

2628. Is not that an additional reason for supposing that public libraries would be more welcome to the people?—Yes; they are in a better condition now to appreciate the value of such libraries than they were before.

2629. Have you any village libraries in Ireland?—No.

2630. Do not the landed gentry in the neighbourhood of a village, or the clergymen, take an interest in the formation of lending libraries, to circulate books among the working classes and small farmers?—I think not, generally; there are some Protestant clergymen who have small libraries of books which they distribute among their own flock.

2631. Not books on general subjects?—No.

2632. Do not you think it would be very desirable, for a great many reasons, if it were deemed expedient by the residents to establish such libraries as we have in England?—I think it would.

2633. Might not it be made a very obvious means of instruction, with regard to many things required in Ireland, such as the ventilation of their dwellings, and agriculture, and the preparation of their food, and cleanliness?—Doubtless; the instruction given to the children of the peasantry in Ireland is but of very short duration; a boy is sent to school for a year, or a quarter of a year; they are very apt; they learn to read in a very short time, but they are taken away from school immediately after; and though the boy knows how to read and write and cast accounts, he does not know the English language, nor what is written in it; he is no scholar; put him into a merchant's house and he can work anything out, though he can scarcely write a sentence.

2634. Are there persons in the parishes in Ireland who would avail themselves of good books if they were accessible?—There is scarcely any person in the parishes now who would not.

2635. Mr. *Hamilton.*] In many parts of Ireland a large proportion of the lower classes are able to read and write?—I do not know any boy in the country who is not able to read now; the misfortune is, that they have nothing to read.

2636. Do you think there are many hundreds of thousands of persons able to read and write English, but unable to make their knowledge available?—Certainly.

2637. You think to those persons libraries would be of very considerable value?—I do; I think the complaints against witnesses in courts of justice have arisen very much from the imperfect knowledge they possess of the English language; a person who speaks English in a very faulty manner is put upon the table to give evidence; he is asked, "Do you speak English," he says, "I do not," which is true according to his own meaning of it; he means he does not understand it well, and does not like to speak it; that man is examined by a barrister who talks fluently, and the man does not know how to talk at all; he can make him say anything he pleases, but if he were to give evidence in Irish, he would be able to give utterance to his thoughts and to his knowledge of the facts, but he cannot transfer them to a language he is so imperfectly acquainted with.

2638. *Chairman.*] All this bears upon the desirableness of founding public libraries to which the people may have access?—Yes.

2639. Reverting to the subject of village libraries, do not you think, in addition to the advantages which you have described as likely to result from them, they might be made very useful instruments of information to the rural population, upon a subject of great importance in Ireland, the subject of emigration?—They would; I do not think that I know any books on emigration published by any authority; I know there are books which are in the hands of the country people, of which they are very fond, where they deem them trustworthy, but I think it might be a great object with the Government to publish valuable information, and circulate it among the country people.

2640. We have many good and many cheap books, and many documents issued under the authority of Government published in England; as it is deemed desirable by many of the Irish landowners to encourage emigration, might not they give information to the people, by means of these village libraries, upon that very important subject?—I do not know anything that would be so acceptable to the people or so useful; they receive letters, and they obtain small pamphlets, but there is no reliance to be placed upon them, nor have the people themselves any reliance upon them; but if they had works published which the representatives of Ireland in Parliament agreed to be useful, they would receive them, and they would have a very beneficial effect.

2641. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Is not it, in point of fact, the case that newspapers constitute almost exclusively the literature of the lower classes in Ireland at the present moment?—Exclusively; there are no books in the country.

2642. Is it your opinion that if libraries were established, the lower classes of the people would have recourse to them with great avidity?—Yes.

2643. *Chairman.*] Would not it be an assistance to the newspapers themselves; sometimes a newspaper writer wishes to consult books on historical subjects, and the libraries might be available even to those who are now the instructors of the people?—Yes, and the communications would be of a better description than those which are inserted now; many evils would be corrected by a greater diffusion of sound knowledge, and the knowledge of good books.

2644. Mr. *Kershaw.*] Are there no small libraries connected with the chapels and churches of religious bodies through Ireland?—I do not know that there are; there are small libraries attached to some of the Roman Catholic chapels in Dublin, which are doing pretty well, but the conductors do not seem inclined to extend them.

2645. Mr. *Wyld.*] You have been speaking of certain Irish manuscripts; are those manuscripts arranged chronologically?—They are not arranged chronologically. About the year 1703 Mr. Lluyd, a Welsh gentleman, travelled into Ireland and collected several Irish manuscripts, which were subsequently bound up together, without any regard to their order or arrangement as to chronology or subject. Sometimes you will find a tract on one subject in one place, and upon another subject in another place; and so as to dates, there has been no arrangement whatever.

2646. To what periods of Irish history do most of those manuscripts relate?—The subjects profess to go back to the first century of the Christian era; and there is little doubt that we have authentic records referring to the second and third century, of course a little exaggerated, but full of very curious and important facts.

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2647. *Chairman.*] Relating locally to Ireland ?—Yes; we have very ancient tracts relating to the same period of time, of the second and third centuries, giving romantic accounts of the travels of certain men, out of Ireland, certain military men passing into various parts of Europe, and into Africa even; and a most remarkable feature is, that the topographical names and the geography are quite correct, though it can be proved that the tracts are 900 or 1,000 years old, even taking them to be a fabrication of the year 900.

2648. Have not you among the Irish manuscripts some Irish translations of ancient authors ?—A great many.

2649. Of what date ?—They are generally of the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. An instance of that occurred in a work lately published by the Archæological Society, the book of Ninnius, written in Latin by him about the year 800. I believe the British Historical Society published it here lately, within the last two years. Notwithstanding that, the Archæological Society in Ireland published it again, not from the original Latin, but from a translation of it into Irish, about the year 1072 or 1172; so much better was the translation, that the Archæological Society have published it. There are many things in the translation which are not in the copy which is published here.

2650. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Is not the Irish language peculiarly accurate, especially as regards the names of places ?—Perhaps no language in the world so much so; it has undergone but very little change in its structure, though many words have been added; the names of men and of places are as correctly written at this day as they were 900 years ago. In the Royal Irish Academy there is a fragment of a very beautiful translation of Ptolemy's System of Astronomy, beautifully written, with very beautiful figures; it must be as old as the year 1380. I know that there is a part of this particular manuscript in the British Museum; and I doubt whether there is to be found in England any treatise on astronomy so old.

2651. I understand you that there are fragments of ancient Irish manuscripts in the British Museum ?—Yes. In Rome there are some very valuable manuscripts belonging to Ireland; they are preserved in the College of Saint Isidore, and we have tracings from them in the Academy.

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Mr. *William Jones.*

2652. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are the Corresponding Secretary of the Religious Tract Society in London ?—I am Corresponding Secretary and Superintendent.

2653. What is the result of your experience with regard to the circulation of books by that society ?—We have found, since we commenced their circulation, that there has been a very large demand for them; we began our library grants in 1832, and since that time in Great Britain and Ireland only, between 5,000 and 6,000 libraries, varying in the number of volumes, have been granted, and from all the communications we have had from different parts of the country, we are exceedingly well satisfied as to their usefulness.

2654. Did the Society in 1832 issue any address with reference to the establishment of libraries ?—It did; it issued an address to the public on the subject of the formation of libraries for schools, both day and Sunday schools, and for the poorer districts of the country where they might be particularly required.

2655. Can you state to the Committee the number of libraries which have been granted up to the present time ?—The number to the present time for Great Britain and Ireland is 5,410.

2656. About what number of books would each library contain ?—They vary very much; I should think upon the average there might be perhaps 100 in each library; sometimes 150, sometimes 200 or more.

2657. What is your mode of circulating those books ?—The books are placed in different districts, wherever persons are found disposed to superintend them and pay a portion of their value; sometimes in vestry libraries, sometimes in the libraries of dissenting chapels, and sometimes in schools; in fact, wherever an agency can be found.

2658. Do you restrict the character of your books to those of a religious nature ? —Yes, we restrict them entirely to our own publications, as far as our grants are concerned; not of course objecting to the introduction into the libraries of any other moral, religious or scientific books which the local friends may wish to place in them.

2659. The libraries consist then of a mingled list of books?—Frequently they do.

2660. Do you think it desirable that there should be a certain admixture of books of a more secular, though of course of a proper and moral character, with religious books?—Decidedly so; our experience is that the society's works of a popular character, such as historical books, or books on astronomy, or the general popular sciences, are very acceptable to the readers of the present day; it is right, also, to state that books of a decidedly religious character are extensively in demand.

2661. Will you have the goodness to state the number of grants which have been made to different districts?—We have distributed a good many to destitute districts; I mean districts in which the people are far from a church or chapel, and where they have very few means of moral and religious improvement; these and the parochial and vestry libraries which we have granted amount to 1,966; then we have felt it very important to promote the cause of education in Sunday and day-schools, not confining our grants to schools connected with any one section of the Christian church, but making them to all well recommended cases. We have granted for these purposes 3,108 libraries; we have also, by the permission of boards of guardians in different parts of the country, granted 154 libraries to union-houses; they are generally much larger than the others, consisting of about 200 or 300 volumes; those have chiefly been granted during the last two years. To National and British school-masters about 182 have been granted within the last two years, consisting principally of biblical, historical and scientific works, to assist them in imparting instruction to the children committed to their care; these have been confined entirely to Great Britain and Ireland.

2662. What is the total number of libraries granted for the above objects?—Five thousand four hundred and ten.

2663. What is the value of the books?—Supposing them to be sold to the bookselling trade or to subscribers, about 24,800*l.*

2664. Are those libraries granted on the payment of a certain portion of their value?—They are; we find almost invariably that the books are more valued if the parties give a portion of their value, and therefore the grants which we have made have generally been at a reduced price, frequently at half the price which I have mentioned, so that the society would grant out of the 24,800*l.* about one-half, or 12,400*l.*, and the friends applying for them would pay the remainder.

2665. Have you supplied any libraries to emigrant and convict vessels?—A very large portion of the emigrant vessels which leave, and many of the convict vessels, receive libraries from us; the society also grants libraries to our colonies, and to most of the missionary stations in the world, for the benefit of mission families and others speaking the English language; these have amounted to about 3,000, the full value being 9,000*l.*

2666. Are the books in those cases exclusively religious?—They are entirely our own books, and in our own books there is a mixture; by far the largest portion are books on the great doctrines of Christianity, but there are some that are historical and scientific, but they are all written with a religious tendency.

2667. What is the average value of the libraries which you have so granted?—They would average at about 5*l.* or 6*l.* each.

2668. What has been the result, in a moral and religious point of view, of the circulation of those libraries?—I think the results have been decidedly of a beneficial character, that is, I believe that persons have been led by those libraries, in many cases, to seek their recreation in literature rather than in public-houses and other places of that kind; others have been restored from immoral and debasing courses; a great number have been led to attend places of religious worship, and many have become decidedly religious characters. If the Committee will allow me I will read a very brief extract from a letter from a Moravian minister at Montgomery, in the West Indies, showing the effect of those libraries among the negroes: "The lending library has been made use of with unabated diligence by the third, fourth, and fifth classes of the adult Sunday-school. From the 16th July to the 31st December no less than 973 volumes were taken out, and, in most cases, read by 130 persons, namely, 90 males and 40 females, and those are the people of whom it has so frequently been said and written, 'the negroes have, by nature, an aversion to reading.'" One of the Stewart missionaries, in Canada, to whom we have sent libraries, states to us: "Your library was an incalculable blessing; at no

Mr. *William Jones.*

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no time since I came here were there so many persons inquiring after books as at the present time. Heretofore the people thought they were obliging the missionary, yea, conferring a favour on him, if they would accept his books; now they consider it, as it is indeed, a great favour and blessing to be supplied with such treasures."

2669. You think, therefore, that libraries, if they could be established in different parts of the country, would have, to a certain extent, a tendency in the same direction as the other benevolent labours of your society?—Decidedly, I think they would be among the greatest blessings which could be conferred upon the country.

2670. Mr. *Wyld.*] Your society is principally supported by the dissenting community, is not it?—No, it is composed of churchmen as well as dissenters, perhaps in about equal proportions. The committee consists of an equal number of churchmen and dissenters.

2671. The works, therefore, are not of a sectarian tendency?—Not at all so; all sectarianism is excluded from them, so that we never touch upon the church government, or any subject of that kind.

2672. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Your works would not be acceptable to Roman Catholics, would they?—Some of them would not, because they have been written in support of Protestant principles, but, out of the whole of them, the largest portion would be as acceptable to Roman Catholics as to any other body of Christians. Out of 4,000 tracts and books on the society's catalogue, about 100 only are on controvertial subjects connected with Roman Catholics.

2673. Would they be suitable for admission into a general library?—The greater part of them would.

2674. Mr. *Wyld.*] Yours is essentially a Protestant society?—Yes, founded upon the great principles of the Reformation.

2675. Mr. *Kershaw.*] You stated that in Great Britain and in Ireland there have been distributed between 5,000 and 6,000 libraries; what proportion of those have been distributed in Ireland?—The demand in Ireland is much less than either in England or Scotland; lamentably less; I could, perhaps, ascertain the exact proportion, but it is very small indeed; I should think that out of the 5,410 libraries which have been distributed, upwards of 4,000 have been granted to England and Scotland and Wales. I think it right to state that we are now, by correspondence, seeking to form libraries in Ireland, because it is a lamentable fact, of which the Committee may be aware, that there are, or were very recently, 73 towns in Ireland in which there was not a single bookseller's shop; in each of those towns, the average population of which is about 2,300, we are anxious to to form those libraries; but in those districts the difficulties attending their formation are much greater, of course, than in the more enlightened parts.

In addition to the facts mentioned in reply to the question 2660, the Witness wishes to add the following statements:

USEFULNESS of LIBRARIES from Facts Extracted from the REPORTS of the SOCIETY.

AMONG SAILORS.

One captain said, "I am happy to tell you, that the books have been read over and over by my ship's company, and I am satisfied they have been made a blessing to some."

Another declared that, "Since the introduction of the books, he had marked a pleasing change among his ship's company, which he attributed to the instruction they received from reading those valuable volumes."—*Appendix* 1841, p. 22.

From Captain *Kirkus.*

My dear Sir, London, January 20, 1845.

I RETURN you the library kindly lent to the "Amwell" for the use of the crew, with many thanks. You will be gratified to bear the books were thankfully received, and attentively read by them; and, I trust, the effects have been good. I am happy to say, I have not had a crew for many years which have given me greater satisfaction, or which I have had less trouble with. During a stay of ten weeks in Hobart Town, in the midst of every kind of vice, not a man was an hour from his duty."—*Appendix,* 1846, p. 25.

W. KIRKUS.

Mr. Pritchard, Her Majesty's Consul at the Society's Islands, in his interview with the committee, alluded to the usefulness of religious publications to sailors, of which many corporal proofs had come under his own observation. On one occasion, the Captain of a man-of-war pointed out to him a side of his cabin filled with books, one half for the officers, and the other for the men. "Talk of discipline," he said, "those books do more good than all the corporal punishment I can inflict." The captain also pointed out a young man, a gunner, whom he had some difficulty in bringing under his rules. The books were not pressed on the young man; he declared he would never read them. The captain, however, proceeded firmly and kindly, and the result was highly gratifying. The young man, at the time of Mr. Pritchard's visit, was a diligent reader of the books, from which he had derived much good. He had become one of the best men of the crew, and the most concerned among them to do good to others.—*Appendix,* 1845, p. 29.

IN SCHOOLS.

A correspondent writes: "It is some two years or more since we availed ourselves of your kind offer to furnish libraries at half their value. From that time until the present ours has been in active circulation, and very great have been the advantages resulting therefrom. One instance I will communicate: A youth, who had spent several years in our Sabbath school, and had been dismissed from thence without receiving any saving benefit, was invited to use our library. He did so, and about ten months since had 'Baxter's Call' to read. God mercifully awakened him by this means, and he has lately joined the church, under the care of the Rev. F. Franklin, and bids fair to be a very useful member. The present aspect of things with us is most cheering; upwards of 50 young people are using the library, 40 of whom do so gratuitously."—*Appendix* 1841, p. 34.

Ireland.—A minister writes: "About three years ago, your society kindly granted a library to the Ballynamoore school; the number of scholars has since been doubled; but not only this, these books have proved a blessing to the young, and even to the old in this neighbourhood. Had I space, I could relate many interesting facts connected with this library; facts which prove the beneficial results of putting religious books into the hands of the young."—*Appendix* 1842, p. 30.

IN DESTITUTE DISTRICTS.

"Could you see the disappointed looks of those members of my lending library," writes a friend, "who find I have nothing new to offer them, and the pleasure and thanks expressed by those who read the books, you would not, I am sure, require any apology for my requesting a fresh supply. The more serious volumes only, which are chiefly read by the parents, remain in a readable state; the narratives, &c., which are preferred by the children, are quite worn out. Not long since, a book called 'Mount Pisgah,' which had been kept more than six months, was returned to me, with many fears that I should be offended; but the wife told me that her husband had read every word three times over, and after all, he so lamented the necessity of parting with the book which he should never see again. The schoolmaster, who is our zealous librarian and tract distributor, says the single sermons, in the form of tracts, have been much liked. There is a very lame man, who often walks two miles to change his books, and has read all I have."—*Appendix* 1848, p. 50.

IN MANUFACTORIES.

"It is no uncommon fact, that books lent on the Saturday evening will be returned on the following Monday, thoroughly read; and, in many instances, men who have been in the habit of spending the principal part of their Sundays in the public-house, have returned their book with the promise, that if the member would still continue to supply such reading, they would leave off spending that day in drunkenness, and stay at home and read; many such men have become subscribers of 1 *d.* and 2 *d.* per month, that they might have a claim for a constant supply."—*Appendix* 1848, p. 33.

Mr. *Charles Corkran*; Examined.

Mr. *C. Corkran.*

2676. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are a Missionary of the London Domestic Mission?—Yes.

2677. You are very familiar with the population of Spitalfields, are you not?—Yes; I have a great deal of intercourse with them.

2678. It is a large district?—Very large, and very populous.

2679. Embracing several parishes?—It does.

2680. With a dense population?—Yes.

2681. Principally engaged in the silk manufacture?—Yes.

2682. What has been your experience of the character of the weavers in that district?—I find many of them very acute.

2683. Have you been very familiar with them?—Yes, I have known them very well, and have been intimately acquainted with their domestic habits, and their character.

2684. You find them an intelligent class of men?—Yes, remarkably intelligent, as a general rule.

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2685. Have they much leisure for reading?—I am sorry to say that when in work they have very little leisure for reading.

2686. Are there some among them who do contrive to read?—Yes; a very fair number of thinking intelligent men.

2687. Do you think, if they had the means of obtaining books through the existence of one or two public libraries, they would make use of them, especially if they were lending libraries?—I think so; and I think that is likely to become more the case in future years.

2688. Are there any libraries freely accessible to the public in that district now?—I hardly know of one. There is a library in connexion with the Spitalfields School of Design, which contains about 400 volumes; but it is only accessible to the pupils.

2689. There is no public library in Spitalfields?—No, nothing that we distinctly know by the name of a public library.

2690. What is the nearest to you; is it Dr. Williams' library?—Dr. Williams' library is in Redcross-street. There is a small library lately opened, for a few hours each evening, in Charles-square, Hoxton; the terms of which are 5*s.* a year.

2691. Whence do the population derive their present supply of books?—I should say, from the small shop libraries, of which there is a very large number in the neighbourhood; and in some of the coffee-shops, a person who takes a cup of coffee may have a cheap novel or some work of fiction to read.

2692. What is the principal character of the books which they read?—The common popular cheap novel. I have been into one of those shops to-day for the purpose of satisfying myself on the point; and from the books which I see displayed in the shop windows, and what I found in the shop, I should say that is the general class.

2693. Are the novels of a superior or of an inferior character?—I should say, of an inferior kind.

2694. Which might possibly pervert the mind, rather than give it a good direction?—Yes; such as the "Mysteries of Paris," a well-known translation from the French, and books of that kind.

2695. Has there been a large circulation of translations of French novels among the reading classes of the working population of England?—I fear there has been.

2696. May not those books be held to contain some doctrines of a doubtful social character, as well as other objectionable features?—I should say so.

2697. At least, may they not be considered as containing loose ideas on the subject of society, not proven, as the Scotch would say, by facts?—I should say they have a licentious tendency; they turn on love adventures painted in a very vivid kind of language, sufficient to excite evil passions, without expressing anything positively gross.

2698. Are they not also somewhat wild in their theories upon the subject of labour?—I cannot call to mind at present any that have touched upon the subject of labour. The "Mysteries of Paris" has been immensely read, and the tendency of that, I doubt not, was an immoral one; there are many cheap publications which more or less touch upon the subject of labour, as between masters and men.

2699. Are those publications of a sound character?—They are not immoral, but they are one-sided, politically regarded; they have a very extensive sale.

2700. What other books are sought after, besides novels?—Among the better class of working men, books of elementary science, history and biography.

2701. Do you think the tendency to read those books is increasing, as compared with the others?—I should say that the taste for that class of books is increasing, but I question very much if there be at all adequate means to gratify it.

2702. Are there any libraries connected with the Sunday-schools attached to the additional number of churches which have been erected?—Nearly every church and chapel, as far as I am aware, without an exception, has a Sunday-school library for the children.

2703. What sort of libraries are those?—Generally speaking they are what we should call of a religious character. The one in connexion with our own mission is perhaps of a more miscellaneous kind; we of course allow nothing immoral, but in addition to religious works, other books, such as travels and voyages, are contained in our library.

2704. Do you think it desirable to mix such books with religious books?—Yes, my

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my own experience is decidedly in favour of it; children take those books home, and very often they are read by their parents when they are not read by the children.

2705. Has the library connected with the Spitalfields School of Design been of much service in that part of the town?—I inquired of the secretary the other day, and he told me there were about 100 readers; about eight of those are operative weavers.

2706. Do they read in the library, or are the books lent out to them?—The books are lent out to them.

2707. Then that library must produce a beneficial effect upon the population?—Decidedly; the class of people who read are somewhat above the range of operatives.

2708. Have there been any attempts to establish institutions with libraries of a more scientific character, than those you have alluded to?—The Mathematical Society of Spitalfields, formerly, I believe, of some celebrity, has been broken up of late years. I asked the secretary of the School of Design the reason; he told me that it did not find support in that neighbourhood; it was chiefly supported by master manufacturers and tradesmen, but not by the operatives.

2709. Has your society had any project for forming a library in Spitalfields?—We are just now forming one; I should mention that about 12 years ago, in connexion with our institution, a number of the working men themselves formed a library, which gradually increased to about 800 volumes, that has been lately dissolved from peculiar circumstances, and we are now forming another of a general character, which we shall try to make acceptable to the population.

2710. At what rate of subscription do you intend to open it?—To bring it within their means, we intend to charge only two-pence a month, and a penny a month to members of the congregation.

2711. Have you a Sunday-school library also?—Yes, with about 260 volumes; I may also mention that we have a small day-school library.

2712. Have any attempts been made to increase the intelligence of the persons in that part of London by public lectures?—For the last 12 or 14 years we have given courses of popular lectures every winter.

2713. Has the number of those lectures been increasing?—Yes; we give them regularly every year; we have many gentlemen of considerable eminence in the literary and scientific world, who kindly come and give us lectures gratuitously when they are solicited.

2714. And the number of those lectures has increased of late years, has it?—Yes.

2715. The subjects given have increased in number?—Yes, and in variety.

2716. Has the character of the lecturers been of a high kind?—From the beginning, we have had many first class men.

2717. Are there not some very eminent men who go about the country for the purpose of lecturing now?—Quite so.

2718. A class of men who were unknown 30 or 40 years ago?—Yes.

2719. Men of education, who find it not only a very honourable but a lucrative profession?—I should say so.

2720. Does not that point to the advantage of having good libraries?—Yes.

2721. The lectures would lead to reading, and the reading would elucidate the lectures?—Yes; I can give the Committee a striking illustration of that. In the month of November, I think it was, we had two lectures on electricity; they were remarkably well attended; and a young man, a respectable operative, after the second lecture, applied to the lecturer for the loan of some work on the subject of electricity. The lecturer happened to have at the time a popular tract in his hand, which he gave to that person, and I think in a fortnight afterwards the latter produced an electrifying machine, which he had made himself from the diagrams in the tract and the descriptions; that machine he subsequently brought to another meeting, and amused the audience by giving them shocks, showing that he had succeeded.

2722. From the result of your observations, and your extensive intercourse with the weavers, do you think there prevails a taste for reading in Spitalfields?—I should say so, decidedly; at the same time, from the depression of the silk trade, and the difficulty of getting a livelihood, that taste is not called out to the extent it would otherwise be.

2723. You

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2723. You attribute the want of development of the taste to two causes?—Yes; one of them being the low wages they receive, and the mental and bodily suffering attendant upon it.

2724. And the other, the difficulty of procuring books?—Yes.

2725. Is education spreading now in the Spitalfields district?—Yes, very rapidly; all the churches and dissenting chapels have Sunday-schools; the churches have day-schools; our own institution has a large day-school, and ragged-schools are becoming very numerous; those ragged-schools are stimulating education to a considerable degree; the better class of children seek admission into the better class of schools, so that the proportion of those who are learning to read and write must be very great indeed.

2726. Inasmuch as education is more rapidly advancing, it is likely that the want of public libraries will be more felt than before?—Decidedly so.

2727. Supposing there were a public library in Spitalfields, in what part do you think it might be most beneficially placed?—A suggestion has occurred to my own mind: the Victoria Park, which has been lately opened, is greatly frequented by working people, particularly upon fine days; it seems to me that if a library were stationed in that quarter it would find readers.

2728. Do you think there would be a willingness among the more wealthy persons in the district to give donations to a library, if such a library were constituted?—I think so; perhaps it would take a certain tinge from the political or religious views of the parties in that neighbourhood. There are some very wealthy people, and very liberal; but they generally confine their liberality to some particular class of Christians.

2729. If there were such a thing as a public library of a non-sectarian character, there probably are persons who would be donors to it, and some would leave bequests probably to such a library?—Yes, I have no doubt of it.

2730. Are there any remains of the old Huguenot weavers who came over at the time of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes?—Judging from the names and the physiognomy of many persons I meet with there, I should say there are; I meet with many names evidently French; but I have never been able to find amongst those parties anything like a traditional account of their origin. They have a vague tradition that their ancestors did come from France at one time; but why or wherefore, they are not able to say.

2731. Do they retain any habits which would connect their origin with France?—I do not know how far the love of birds may be said to do so, but a great love of birds prevails among the weavers. At one time the taste for collecting insects prevailed; I fear it has declined. I find very pretty collections in the houses of weavers; but I fear they have been made in times gone by.

2732. Is there any taste shown for the collection of flowers?—I know there is a Dahlia Society composed of about 20 members; I am told it is not the only one. Formerly, the weavers had little gardens in the direction of Bethnal Green. A working man would pay as much as 12*s.* or 16*s.* a year for a bit of ground in which he grew flowers; but lately those gardens have been consolidated, and comparatively few allotments now remain.

2733. What are the habits of the people in Spitalfields?—Taking them all in all, and comparing them with other parts of England, the moral character of the people is high.

2734. Is it improving or deteriorating, do you think?—I have been informed, in conversation with persons living in the neighbourhood, that the moral character of the people has decidedly improved of late years; that there is not the same drunkenness, nor the same violence, nor the cock-fighting, and similar sports, that used to go on 20 years ago.

2735. Are there any museums or galleries of art in that part of the town?—Not any.

2736. Nothing which could at all tend to civilize the people in that way?—Nothing of the kind.

2737. You think a library could be established there with great benefit?—I am quite sure that a general library of an unsectarian kind that would be open to all classes at a cheap rate, would be a great benefit.

2738. Particularly if it were a lending library?—Yes; and if there were connected with it works of art it would be an additional advantage.

2739. It would be still better if it could be made quite accessible to anybody, as is the case on the continent, would it not?—Yes.

2740. Mr. *Wyld.*] Can the mass of the people in Spitalfields read and write? —I have found very many who cannot read and write, but there is a great desire to give their children education; and I am persuaded that the next generation of grown people in Spitalfields will be more highly educated than their parents. I often hear from parents expressions of sorrow that in their days the facilities which now prevail of getting education did not exist, and we must take into account that all those churches and schools before referred to have sprung up within the last 10 or 12 years.

2741. Have you any adult schools in the district?—In connexion with the mission to which I am attached as domestic missionary, we have an evening-school held two evenings in the week partly composed of adults.

2742. Is it well attended?—It is very well attended; I find one of the churches has lately commenced a similar school, and I think very likely they will become common among the churches in the neighbourhood.

2743. Do you find that there is a great taste for information prevailing among the working classes in the neighbourhood?—Yes; it takes a political turn at times.

2744. *Chairman.*] Do a large proportion of them frequent some place of public worship?—Few comparatively do.

2745. Are there a great many who go to none?—I believe the vast majority do not attend any place of public worship.

2746. Mr. *Kershaw.*] Are there many dissenting places of worship in the neighbourhood?—Yes, a good many.

2747. Do they take a fair share of the working people?—As far as I am able to judge, I should say that probably they have the larger portion of the working people.

2748. Do they take a fair share in the responsibility of endeavouring to communicate knowledge to the people?—Yes; the evangelical dissenters and the church party which holds the same views, combined, in what is called the City Mission, keep, I think, 22 missionaries constantly visiting the homes of the people.

2749. Do they endeavour to promote education, among their other objects?—They are chiefly active in the establishment of ragged-schools.

2750. *Chairman.*] Part of the population of Spitalfields are very much crowded in their residences, are not they?—Exceedingly so.

2751. Perhaps that is one reason for their present want of mental improvement? —That is one reason; there is no domestic comfort. I frequently find as many as seven or eight persons living all in one room; in that room, perhaps, there will be two looms at work, so that the noise and discomfort render it almost impossible that a working man, if he were ever so well inclined to read, could sit down and read quietly.

2752. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Do you mean that they all sleep in the same room?—Yes, and it is attended with the most deplorable consequences when fever or any other epidemic breaks out; I have seen as many as three children lying in one room with fever.

2753. Mr. *Wyld.*] It is almost impossible for a working man to pursue any reading from the crowded state of the apartments?—Quite so; many of the better class of weavers however, have small houses with four rooms.

2754. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] How many hours a day do they work?—On an average they work fourteen hours a day.

2755. *Chairman.*] What is the whole population, do you think, of the district of Spitalfields?—It has been estimated at 80,000, but that takes in a very large circuit.

2756. Distress has not been so prevalent there of late years as it used to be, has it?—Within the last year there has been considerable improvement.

Martis, 22° *die Maii*, 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Ewart.
Sir Harry Verney.
Mr. G. A. Hamilton.
Mr. Kershaw.
Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Monckton Milnes.
Viscount Ebrington.
Mr. Wyld.
Mr. Thicknesse.

WILLIAM EWART, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Joseph Brotherton, Esq., a Member of the Committee, Examined.

J. Brotherton, Esq., M.P.

22 May 1849.

2757. *Chairman.*] CAN you give the Committee any information respecting the Salford Reading Library and Reading-room?—I have received a statement from the Librarian, which gives an account of the number of volumes in the library, and the number of readers; and conceiving that this document may convey useful information, as to the extent of the library and its influence in its immediate neighbourhood, I beg leave to put it in.

[*The same was delivered in, and read, as follows*:]

STATEMENT of the Salford Library and Reading-room.

There are 1,621 works, consisting of about 3,180 volumes. The Reading-room is open every evening, except Sunday, from 6 till 10 o'clock. The subscription is 1*s.* per quarter, admitting to the reading-room, evening classes and lectures. The number of subscribers for the present quarter (ending 24th June 1849) is 274. The number of books lent out for reading during the last three months 3,595, or an average of about 50 each night.

The classification of the catalogue published in January 1849 is as follows:—

Arts and Sciences.
History, Topography, Voyages, &c.
Biography.
Novels, Romances, Tales, &c.
Poetry and the Drama.
Natural History, Philosophy.
Theology, Morals, Metaphysics, &c.
Law, Politics, Commerce, &c.
Education, Rhetoric, Logic, &c.
Dietetics, Materia Medica, &c.
Foreign Works, Greek and Latin Classics.
Encyclopædias, Literary Journals.
Magazines, &c.
Miscellaneous.

2758. This is a subscription library?—Yes; but the library is vested in trustees.

Mr. *William Lovett*; Examined.

Mr. *W. Lovett.*

2759. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE that you have for many years interested yourself in the advancement and instruction of the working classes in this country?—I have.

2760. Are you connected with any institution established for that purpose?—I am at present manager of the National Hall in High Holborn, and superintendent of the schools; I am a cabinet-maker by trade, and have been associated with the working classes for many years.

2761. Will you have the goodness to give the Committee the details of the formation of the National Hall?—It originated in a little work that was published by myself and Mr. Collins in the year 1840. Our object was to form an association for the promotion of the political and social improvement of the people. One of our objects was to secure for them their equal political rights; but an equally important object was the preparing them, as far as possible, intellectually and socially for the proper use of that power when they may have it; and to that end we have had lectures delivered in the place; we have a library in connexion with it, and we have now a large school, in which we have about 200 boys and from 70 to 80 girls.

2762. How was the institution formed, and how is it supported?—We were aided in its formation by the subscriptions of gentlemen, friends to the cause of progress,

gress, and by the subscriptions and exertions of the working classes themselves; we have laid out altogether about 1,300*l.* upon the place.

2763. Did some of the working men assist in the fitting up of this building?—They did, in subscribing towards it.

2764. How is it maintained now?—It is maintained principally by the classes that we have there, by the lectures, by our schools, and also by donations.

2765. Are the schools and other parts of your institution in a flourishing condition at present?—We are not so flourishing as I could wish; we have a debt of about 300*l.*, which is rather an obstacle in the way; but still, upon the whole, we have done very well since we have been established.

2766. Having been so long associated as you have been with the working classes, can you give the Committee any information respecting their tastes and habits, and can you state how far, in your judgment, the establishment of public libraries is likely to be appreciated by them?—I have witnessed a very decided improvement intellectually and socially among them, especially among the working classes of London, during the last 28 years of my residence here.

2767. Can you give the Committee any instances of the improvement of their habits which you have observed?—In the first place, they are not so drunken and dissipated in their habits as they were at that period; which beneficial change I attribute principally to the great increase of coffee-houses and reading-rooms; for at the period I refer to, the working classes generally took their meals at public-houses, which led to the formation of habits which I have known to be the ruin of great numbers; the same persons now generally take their meals at coffee-houses and reading-rooms.

2768. Can you give the Committee any idea of the increase of late years in the number of coffee-houses?—I have no statistical information to give, but I should say they have increased five-fold within the last 17 or 18 years.

2769. You possibly recollect the time when there was scarcely a coffee-house in London?—I recollect when there were very few indeed, and unattractive, and these having few publications, owing to the high price they had to pay for newspapers. There was no cheap literature at that time, or very few cheap publications; there was the "Mirror," one little publication, taken in by them, but I do not know any other at that period; and the consequence was that the working classes used to have their meals at a public-house.

2770. The first of what may be called the modern coffee-houses was established in 1811, was not it?—That was before my coming to London.

2771. And they now amount to probably 2,000?—I have been told 2,000.

2772. Are not those coffee-houses the resort of the sober part of the working population?—I should say so.

2773. In fact, they have not there the means of indulging in dissipated or drunken habits?—Not at all; you may go into those places, and see a great number of the working classes reading; I am told that somewhere about 500 of them have libraries connected with them; some of those libraries have as many as 2,000 volumes; there is one especially in Long Acre, "Potter's Coffee-house," I think it is called, where they have 2,000 volumes, it is said; and there are other parts of London where they have also large libraries.

2774. Is that a mere coffee-house?—Yes.

2775. They do not sell spirits?—Nothing but tea and coffee.

2776. Those houses are strictly for the sale of tea and coffee?—Yes, except that in many of them they cook meat; which persons can be supplied with as well as tea and coffee.

2777. Mr. *Hamilton.*] They are not spirit-shops as well?—Not at all.

2778. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Do the working classes take their meals in coffee-houses, rather than go home?—I am speaking of the young men of London, and also of the married men who have to work at some distance from their homes; in London they have to go sometimes two or three miles away; their work calls them into different parts of the town.

2779. *Chairman.*] Do not some of the proprietors of some of those coffee-shops expend hundreds of pounds a year in the purchase of periodicals, newspapers, and books?—They do; a gentleman, the proprietor of one of those places, told me that his average expenditure for papers and periodicals was about 5*l.* a week.

2780. Are not some of those coffee-houses so much frequented that perhaps 1,500 persons pass through one of them in the course of the day?—As to the exact number I cannot say; but you can seldom go into some of those large ones but you find them crowded with people mostly of the working classes.

2781. In fact, have not they been most valuable organs in extending habits of sobriety, and in promoting a greater taste for periodical literature throughout London?—I think so, indeed.

2782. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Do you happen to know whether there are any libraries or publications attached to any of the gin palaces?—I think there are not any. I may mention further, as regards the improvement of the working classes, that they are not so eager after brutal sports and pastimes as they were when I came to London. At that period you might see the working classes of London flocking out into the fields on a Sunday morning, or during a holiday, in their dirt and dishabille, deciding their contests and challenges by pugilistic combats. It was no uncommon thing, at that time, on taking a Sunday morning's walk, to see about twenty of such fights. Dog-fights and cock-fights were equally common at that time; and at that time what were called "Cock-and-hen clubs," and "Free-and-easies," were very common among the working classes.

2783. *Chairman.*] What were "Cock-and-hen clubs"?—Males and females meeting together at a public-house, and hearing songs sung; indeed, every species of debauchery, in some instances. Now, they have singing, and something that may be called "Free-and-easies," at public-houses; but they are comparatively few, and these confined to the lowest class. And in the work-shop too, a great improvement has taken place among the working classes; their footings, fines, and drinking bouts are now almost done away with.

2784. What are "Footings?"—A footing is a certain sum which a person is compelled to pay upon his going into a shop, to treat his shopmates with drink. Those are now generally done away with among the working classes; and coarse and brutal language, too, is also less common than at that period.

2785. You think that the working classes have become, to a great extent, a more reading and thinking class than they formerly were?—I do; and this I attribute chiefly to our cheap periodical literature; and that I believe had its origin in the efforts that were made between the years 1830 and 1836 to remove the fourpenny stamp upon newspapers.

2786. Do you believe that newspapers and periodicals have produced a great advantage to the public by their increase since the period to which you have referred?—Yes; I think that newspapers have doubled their circulation since that period. In 1836, before the stamp was lowered, I find that the circulation of the papers for the United Kingdom was 35,576,056. In 1842, which is the last Return made to the House of Commons, it was 61,495,503; and I should say that other cheap periodicals have increased more than a hundred-fold.

2787. Can you give the Committee any information with reference to the circulation of certain periodicals which are familiar to the public?—Some of them have an extraordinary sale. I am informed that the "Family Herald" circulates about 125,000 weekly; that has been established about two or three years.

2788. What is the price of that?—Three half-pence; and "Chambers's Journal," I should say, circulates from 60,000 to 70,000.

2789. The price of that is also 1½*d.*?—Three half-pence; the "London Journal" circulates 100,000 weekly.

2790. What is the price of that?—Also 1½*d.*; "Eliza Cook's Journal," which has been recently established, is said to have a sale of from 50,000 to 60,000.

2791. That has been recently established?—Within the last three or four weeks.

2792. Is that 1½*d.*?—It is; and there are a great many others that also circulate large numbers in the provinces. In 1830 the great majority of our country booksellers seldom had more than one parcel per month from London, and now most of them have a parcel weekly, and many of them in the large towns, three or four weekly, showing a great increase.

2793. Viscount *Ebrington.*] Has not the relaxation in the postage regulations, as applied to books, produced some effect upon the circulation of periodical literature?—I think very little; those are generally sent by coach or waggon in large numbers.

2794. Are you aware of the alteration which has been made recently in the postage on books?—Yes, I am.

2795. Do you think that the parcels generally are of such a size and weight as to be more cheaply transmitted as goods, rather than as books under the postage regulations adverted to?—Yes; I happen to know that from having been a publisher, and knowing that they are sent off in great numbers by parcels.

2796. *Chairman.*] Do you believe that a taste for reading has been so far promoted by the periodical literature which is circulated among the people, that it would induce them to appreciate libraries, if such were established?—I do; I judge from the efforts which have been made by the working classes to establish libraries for themselves. The better-paid mechanics or artisans exert themselves to have little libraries of their own. I know a great number who have very respectable libraries. And I am also induced to believe that public libraries would be greatly appreciated, from the gradual increase of those libraries of which I have spoken in connexion with coffee-houses.

2797. You have already said that there are about 500 such libraries in London?—So I am informed.

2798. Have you any other reason for thinking that books would be especially valued by the working classes?—I think that public libraries would aid much in the intellectual and moral improvement of the people, especially if they were allowed, under proper regulations, to take books home with them; and also if means were taken to prevent such libraries from having an exclusive or a sectarian character.

2799. Have you been much in the country?—Not much, but I have had great correspondence with the country during the time that I have been in London.

2800. Can you give the Committee any instances of books circulating in London among the very poor class of the population, by means of libraries formed among themselves, or by clergymen in London?—No, I know that great efforts were made some years ago, among what were called the Working Men's Associations, and other bodies, to establish little libraries.

2801. Do you know anything of itinerating libraries, which are established in villages in the country?—I have not heard of them; I think, however, that while every arrangement should be made for the population of the towns, that libraries for the population of our villages should not be neglected. I think our agricultural population, and persons in remote districts, stand most in need of information. I would respectfully suggest the formation of itinerating libraries for their benefit, the same to be circulated from village to village, in rotation. Such libraries, containing about 100 or 150 volumes, might be fitted up in a box form and supplied with shelves, and a set of rules and catalogue put in with the books, would form a library when opened, without any trouble to the person receiving it.

2802. From your knowledge of libraries, what do you think would be the cost of fitting up such an itinerating library?—I think it might be got up for less than 20*l.*

2803. Have you any other suggestion to make on the subject of improving the habits of the people?—I think that the licensing of coffee-houses for musical entertainments, instead of places where intoxicating drinks are sold, would be one great means of improving the people; and I think also that the throwing open of our museums and galleries of art and science on a Sunday afternoon would tend very much to check the drinking and dissipation that is carried on on that day; and if short lectures were delivered in those places upon the wonders and beauties around them, I think it would be found a great means of improving our population.

2804. Reverting to the object of the Committee, you think there would be not only an appreciation of books, if they were placed within the reach of the working classes, but that there would be great use made of them?—I do.

2805. You think there is at present a want of books to supply the exigencies of the working classes?—I do.

2806. In your part of the town, is there any large library into which a person can freely walk, and have a book when he wants it?—No.

2807. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Is the institution to which you belong supported by subscriptions?—By the subscriptions of the working classes, by donations, and by the proceeds of our lectures, schools and classes.

2808. How much is the subscription?—Two-pence weekly; then we throw it open also to the public; we admit the public to our lectures, for which they pay a certain sum.

2809. Something on the plan of a mechanics' institution?—Something of that nature, but less expensive.

2810. Do you admit books of party politics?—We do.

2811. Mr. *Wyld.*] Of all parties?—Of all kinds, except such as are of an immoral character.

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2812. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] What class of books do the working class appreciate most?—I should say, generally speaking, our light periodical literature; but I would suggest, that should anything of the nature of itinerating or small libraries be formed, it would be well to make a prudent selection; I would respectfully suggest elementary works on science, and especially, I would say, on social science; by which I mean that kind of knowledge which would enable the working classes to perceive that their own well-being, and the welfare of society, depended upon their own knowledge, skill, industry and economy; and also to perceive that misery to themselves and others must result inevitably from their own ignorance, idleness and improvidence.

2813. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Is there not, rather, in contradiction to what you have suggested now, a large circulation of publications of a very immoral and anti-social tendency prevalent among the working classes in London?—At one time there were works published to a large extent, I think, by Lloyd, which were said to have that tendency; but I am told that the character of his works has been much improved, and that there is now a less circulation of such works than formerly.

2814. *Chairman.*] Is there an extensive circulation of translations of French novels among the working classes?—I believe that cheap editions of some of Eugene Sue's works have been circulated to some extent.

2815. Nothing like the extent to which the works you have mentioned circulate? —Nothing, I should say.

2816. Viscount *Ebrington.*] In the establishment to which you have alluded, as being supported by the weekly subscriptions of the labouring classes, is there any fund raised by the voluntary subscriptions of richer persons as a nucleus around which donations are gathered?—Yes; we have received considerable sums as donations from benevolent individuals at different times.

2817. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Are the Committee to understand you as expressing the opinion that the taste among the working classes is improving with reference to the literature to which they apply themselves?—Considerably.

2818. And that, by promoting the circulation of useful publications among them, the tendency which existed some years ago to immoral and anti-social publications would be very much overcome?—I believe so; and I think that great benefit would also result if books and newspapers were cheapened in every way; newspapers may be conidered the daily history of the people, and should be as cheap as possible; if all stamp-duties and duties on paper and all other restrictions were removed, it would tend much to the improvement of the people.

2819. *Chairman.*] Would you remove the advertisement duty?—I would, the duty on advertisements also; I conceive that the removal of the four-penny stamp, and the contest consequent upon that, had a great effect in calling into circulation our cheap literature; because the Committee may remember that there was a contest which lasted for somewhere about five years, in which a great number of people published cheap publications in defiance of the law, and by so doing they created a public opinion sufficiently powerful at last to cause the lowering of the duty. During that contest, a new class of booksellers also sprung up. One of the chief booksellers of Manchester was one of the persons who sprung up at that time, entirely from selling cheap publications. The old set of booksellers did not like to sell those cheap publications, as they were published in defiance of the law, and others consequently sprung up. Then again, these results tended to increase the number of coffee-houses, because they have been enabled to have so many more papers and periodicals for the same money; and those cheap publications offer great inducements to the working classes to attend; and a taste being thus created, they have continued to go on improving. I attribute the present enlightenment and improvement of the people principally to these circumstances; and these, I think, should afford additional reasons for removing all other obstructions to the improvement of the people.

2820. Has not the system of lecturing become very much extended and improved of late years?—It has; we have had very excellent courses of lectures at our hall, one of which lasted for a year and a half. They were delivered by a Member of your House, (Mr. Fox); and have been recently published in three volumes.

2821. Do not lectures lead to the reading of books by a person who listens to a lecture finding it desirable and sometimes necessary to consult books in consequence?—I found it so myself, when I was a member of the Mechanics' Institute

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on its first formation; through the means of lectures, I have often been induced to make inquiries, and to have recourse to books.

2822. Do not you think it very desirable, in large provincial towns, that the working classes should have easy access to books, especially now that lectures are so much extended, and general information is so largely disseminated?—I do. I would say a word as regards the management of such libraries, if established; I think it would be well that they should not be confined to any particular class, but that those persons who made most use of the libraries should have something of a voice or vote in the management; because I think they would be likely to feel a greater interest in getting in suitable works, and making the library efficient, than if the management were entrusted to any particular class of people, it may be persons who would take little or no interest in the matter.

2823. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Whom do you mean by "a particular class of people"?—It might be confined to the municipal authorities in a large town; suppose the middle or the upper classes.

2824. *Chairman.*] Do you mean that if there was a municipal library, the town council should have a voice in the formation and management of the library?—I should say the frequenters of the library; for if an inducement were held out, that the persons who frequented the library should have a vote or a voice in the management of it, it would be more likely to be better managed.

2825. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] How would you effect that?—I think it might be effected by the committee, or the persons managing the library, being elected annually; those persons who have been in the habit of frequenting or using the library having a voice in the election.

2826. Mr. *Wyld.*] And you would allow the annual subscribers to the library to choose a proportion of the committee which regulate the library?—If there were annual subscribers.

2827. Have you considered the means of making the existing public libraries available for the working classes and the public generally?—I have not considered that subject.

2828. *Chairman.*] Do you know much of the existing public libraries in London, such as Sion College, Williams's Library, and Tennyson's Library?—No, I do not know any except the Museum; I have only attended the Museum Library.

2829. Do the working classes resort much to the British Museum Library?—Not in great numbers; but some of them do.

2830. Do they find it sufficiently accessible to them?—They do; I have always found it so.

2831. Supposing a working man just come to London, how would he apply for access to the Museum?—I applied on one occasion by getting the signature of two housekeepers, and then sending a note to the secretary of the Museum; by so doing you get a card forwarded to you.

2832. It is always conceded to a person who makes a claim in that way?—I believe it is.

2833. Mr. *Wyld.*] Is it not the fact, that the working classes cannot avail themselves of the existing public libraries at the times at which they are now open?—That is one great obstacle.

2834. Do you think, that if the time were extended to the evening, after the working classes have ceased from labour, a great many of them would frequent the public libraries?—I think they would.

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2835. *Chairman.*] YOU are a member of the council of the Royal Dublin Society?—I am a member of the library committee, of 15 years' standing; I was its first chairman, and frequently since (as I do this year) represented it as its second member of council.

2836. Can you give the Committee any information respecting the public libraries in Dublin?—Generally, I can; but I presume the public libraries chiefly contemplated by this Committee are "libraries founded and maintained by public money, and open, altogether gratuitously, to the public, or to a portion of the public." I now hand to each member of this Committee a copy of "The Commercial Journal, or Family Herald," Dublin, February 17, 1849, which contains a

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concise account of all Dublin libraries, written by me some years since; it may suggest questions.

2837. Will you have the goodness to give the Committee an outline of all the public libraries in Dublin?—There is, first, the public library in D'Olier-street; that is a library supported by subscription, without any endowment; it is supplied with newspapers and periodicals, and one guinea a year is the subscription to it, without any introduction.

2838. But what libraries are there in Dublin as accessible as the British Museum?—The only library we have as accessible as the British Museum, is that of the Dublin Royal Society; and that, in fact, is more rapidly accessible than that of the British Museum; the library of the Dublin Society is accessible by tickets, some of which I now produce, supplied by members; each ticket subsists for only three months; this discharges the committee of the disagreeable duty of excluding improper persons; when persons have been introduced, the tickets are renewed by the library committee at the end of three months for those readers against whom there has been no complaint. As a proof of the rapidity with which the admission may be obtained, I have two or three times, in travelling from England to Ireland, mentioned to persons whom I met with on my journey, the library of the Dublin Royal Society, without mentioning my having any connexion with it, but merely telling how application was to be made for admission, and, on my visit the next day to the library of the Dublin Society, I have met those persons there, who have got admission by applying to the landlords of their hotels; I believe that admission is not quite so rapidly obtained at the British Museum.

2839. Mr. *Hamilton.*] In fact, those tickets are distributed very freely by the members?—They are; there are 800 members in this society, of all ranks and professions; a great majority of those reside in Dublin; admission is never refused to any person who ought to be admitted; each of the tickets, on the back of them, have the regulations which visitors are obliged to observe, and which, the Committee must see, are as few and simple as is consistent with the preservation of the books.

2840. Is the Dublin Society Library taken advantage of much by the middling and the working classes in Dublin?—Not by the mere operatives; it has been by the intelligent artificers, such as opticians and others; but whenever I have found any person who could make anything of a decent appearance, if he was pursuing any particular subject of study, I have always given him admission, which has never been abused.

2841. *Chairman.*] As it is supported by public grant, ought it not to be open to the public without tickets?—That is probably desirable, and it is practicable, provided the public would supply the means for the very improved as well as enlarged staff, which would be necessary for the preservation of the books. The great difficulty would be to get a literary police who should be perfectly trustworthy; I fear book-collectors most; he who collects for profit has little conscience; he who collects for passion has no conscience at all.

2842. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Is it entirely supported by public grant?—No.

2843. What is the amount of the public grant?—It has varied very much. In the earlier stages, it varied from 5,000 *l.* to 5,500 *l.*, 10,000 *l.*, and, in one year, the late Irish Parliament granted 15,000 *l.* It was 10,000 *l.* Irish up to 1819; then 7,000 *l.* and 5,300 *l.* It is now 6,000 *l.*

2844. Can you state what proportion that bears to the funds raised from other sources?—I did not expect to have that question asked, or I would have been prepared to answer it; sometimes there are four or five and twenty new members balloted for, at 20 guineas each.

2845. *Chairman.*] What is the number of readers in the year in the Royal Dublin Society?—In the last year, the library was closed for seven months, in consequence of the military occupation of the society. During the odd five months, the number of readers was 3,054 individuals, at the rate of 7,330 yearly, but the yearly number has exceeded 8,000.

2846. Mr. *Hamilton.*] The military occupation of the building arose out of the state of things in the country?—It arose out of the political state of Ireland; the society lent its house for a barrack.

2847. *Chairman.*] Were any of those 3,054 readers of the working classes?—Not of the absolutely working classes, the lowest of them being intelligent journeymen of the higher class, such as watchmakers or opticians, introduced for the

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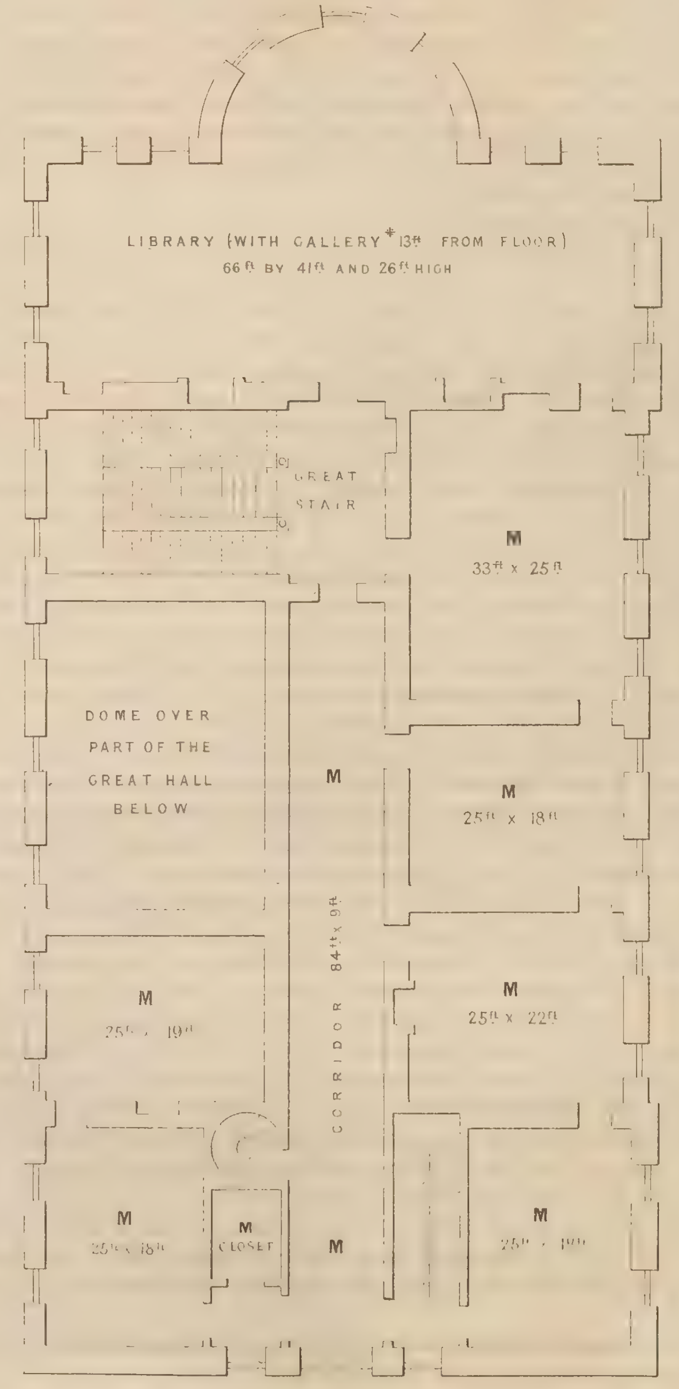
PLAN OF THE FIRST (OR LIBRARY) FLOOR
OF THE
ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY,
(FORMERLY LEINSTER HOUSE)

(See Answer to Question 2848.)



*Note, *Opening into the gallery on the second floor are two rooms (33ft × 25ft and 25ft × 19ft) and a Corridor (80ft × 9ft) full of Books.*

The apartments Marked M, *are the old Museum Rooms, proposed to be added to the Library for Reading Rooms and Book Rooms.*

Scale, 20 Feet to 1 Inch.

Day & Son, Lithrs to the Queen *Henry Hansard, Printer*

No. 548. Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 23rd July, 1849.

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purpose of study on some specific point of practical science. The number of reading days was 154, giving an average of 20 a day during those five months.

2848. Have you a good room?—We have. I have a plan of the society's premises—[*producing the same*]—The room is 66 feet by 41 in its greatest breadth. Hereafter, the first floor of Leinster House will be given for library purposes. The building is 140 feet by 70 on that floor.

2849. Mr. *Hamilton.*] That will afford accommodation for the library upon a very extended scale?—Upon an ample scale; fully equal to the requirements of Dublin.

2850. *Chairman.*] Do you think it expedient to have the reading-room separate from the place of deposit of the books?—I consider it absolutely necessary in the Dublin Society; there is an additional reason for it, which makes it particularly necessary there, which is this; that the advantages of the Society are so freely cast open to the public, that there is scarcely a privilege, except that of sitting in a particular part of the theatre, and taking some share in the management of the concerns, reserved to the members who support it by their money; one of those privileges, and almost the only privilege remaining, is that of having access to the body of the library; and even members, though permitted to take down books at pleasure, ought to be prevented (as in the Athenæum Club) from replacing them, lest they should misplace them.

2851. Are books lent out of the library?—They are.

2852. To whom?—To corporate members only; the members consist of three classes.

2853. Will you state those three classes?—I think I can best answer that question, and at the same time give the Committee information upon other subjects relating to the Dublin Society, by shortly stating that the "Royal Dublin Society for the promotion of husbandry and other useful arts in Ireland," was founded in 1731, by Thomas Prior, of Rathdowney, in the Queen's County, esquire, and incorporated by Royal Charter, 20th February 1749–50. It has a president, seven vice-presidents, two honorary secretaries (elected annually), as are Committees (each of 11 members) of,—1st. Agriculture; 2d. Botany and Agriculture; 3d. Chemistry; 4th. Fine Arts; 5th. Library; 6th. Manufactures; 7th. Natural History, Geology, Mineralogy and Museum; 8th. Natural Philosophy and Mechanics. It has Professors of,—1st. Chemistry; 2d. Mineralogy, Natural History and Geology; 5th. Botany; 4th. Natural Philosophy. Four Masters of Schools, viz.; 1st. Figure Drawing; 2d. Architecture; 3d., Ornament; 4th., Sculpture. The schools and the professors' lectures are free to the public, as are the general and sectional scientific evening meetings. There is a noble botanic garden, the most beautiful in Europe, of nearly 30 acres, British. The society at large (in which is the legislative and general administrative power) meets once a month; on special occasions, oftener. In the interval, the administration is conducted by the council, composed of the chairman and one member of each committee, and of nine members, not being members of committees. The committees report to the council, and to the society at large, indifferently. The society sends lecturers to lecture in such country towns as require them, and contribute to a portion of the expense. There are exhibitions of manufactures every two years; of cattle and farming implements twice a year. There is a fine agricultural museum, a noble museum of geology, mineralogy and some natural history; a lecture theatre, with laboratory attached, and a library. The admission fee of life-members is 21 *l.*, of annual members 5 *l.* 5 *s.* for the first year, and 2 *l.* 2 *s.* for every succeeding; and associate (not corporate) members pay 2 *l.* 2 *s.*, without entrance-fee. The number of members generally (and at present) exceeds 800.

2854. You have stated, that the public contribution amounts now to about 6,000 *l.*; that does not go exclusively to the library?—No.

2855. How much goes to the library?—The grants to the library vary; the sum allotted since 1816 for the purchase of printed books, is 500 *l.* per annum; and then there is the librarian's salary, and the library porter's wages, and furniture and fuel, &c.

2856. What is the librarian's salary?—£. 150 a year, and 25 *l.* for the correction of the press; he corrects all that the society prints.

2857. Viscount *Ebrington.*] Has he apartments?—He has not.

2858. *Chairman.*] What is the number of volumes in the library?—In 1839, the number of volumes was estimated at 11,000; the number of titles, or sets of

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books in 1839, were 4,173; and at this moment they amount to 5,770, showing an increase in 10 years of 1,597 sets of books. In the year ending March 1849, there were purchased 263 sets of books, and presented 30; in all, 293 sets, or 375 volumes; this is exclusive of 59 weekly, monthly or quarterly periodicals (mostly scientific or artistic), regularly taken. I present for inspection an index-book, which I have kept with my own hand, showing the purchases since 1833; the Committee can judge whether they have been well selected.

2859. Are the books lent out to subscribers?—They are lent out to corporate members only; not to associate or honorary members; some books are not lent out at all; the library committee decides what should be lent.

2860. What sort of a catalogue is there?—The catalogue is in the library of the House of Commons, and in the library of the House of Lords; here is a copy.

2861. Is it a very good catalogue?—Before framing it, we examined 30 different plans of catalogues, and we found this to be altogether the cheapest and most useful form of catalogue, namely, a catalogue in which the books are alphabetically placed, according to the name of the author, or the most popular title of the work; in cases of doubt, the book is placed according to both, twice over, and then at the end of the catalogue is, as in our law catalogues, a classified index of the contents of the catalogue.

2862. You have the subjects and the author's name?—The author's name is put generally; it begins with the more popular title of the book alphabetically, and then afterwards comes the classified index.

2863. Mr. *Wyld.*] At what hours is the library open?—From 11 in the forenoon till five in the afternoon; it is open for 300 days in the year, and the committee make a point of having it open generally during Christmas and other holidays, when Marsh's Library and the College are closed.

2864. Would it not make it more available for the general class of readers if the reading-rooms of the society were open in the evening?—That is a point which I and others have often endeavoured to attain, but the funds of the society do not permit the expense.

2865. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Which do you think would be more advantageous to general readers, whether to have an opportunity of attending a greater number of hours each day, or that they should have books out from the library to take them home?—I am decidedly averse, having given 16 years' attention to it, to the removal of books from the library, and I think it very questionable whether it would not be better not to lend books to the members themselves.

2866. But you think it would be desirable to extend the hours of attendance at the library?—Certainly; to extend the hours of attendance at the library.

2867. Do not you often find that when persons wish to refer to a book it leads to a reference to another book?—It does.

2868. And therefore, if the books are not taken away, it must be a great convenience to those who come to the library to consult them?—Yes; the lending of books indeed considerably advances the social improvement of Ireland; by the introduction of literature into private families, we have found that in many instances a widely spread benefit has arisen from it; but what we have endeavoured and desired would be, that no books should be lent out of which we have not duplicates in the library.

2869. Have you good accommodation for readers in your library?—Ultimately we shall have very good accommodation; when the museum shall be removed, and we get the present museum rooms, we shall have a sufficient number of reading-rooms, as in the British Museum; at present we are crowded, having only the library room and its galleries.

2870. But you are decidedly of opinion that affording additional accommodation to readers at the institution would be better than lending the books out for them to read them at home?—Certainly, particularly in a library where the books are of a very high class, it would be impossible to lend them out.

2871. (*Chairman.*] You think it would be best for the library not to lend them out; but which would be best for the readers?—It would be best for the readers, on the long run, to have only such books out as, if destroyed, could be replaced.

2872. Are there not a certain class of books which would be easily replaced?—Certainly, and those are the books which might be lent out.

2873. You

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2873. You would exclude the public from the use of the books, except in the library?—I would in such a library as this, or any other of equally high class.

2874. Of all books of any sort?—Yes; I speak against the interest of my own family when I say this; but I think that the public use of the library would be increased by not lending.

2875. Do you think that lending libraries are bad things when confined to such books as can be easily replaced?—No, I think they are very good things; that of the Mechanics' Institute in Dublin is particularly useful. The books which it lends are not costly ones.

2876. Your evidence on this point refers mainly, if not entirely, to the Royal Dublin Society library?—It refers to any library upon a great scale, such as the British Museum and the Bibliothèque du Roi at Paris.

2877. Those libraries, which may be considered as the depositaries for books, not libraries of circulation?—Yes; the two ought to be separated, just as banks of issue should be separated from banks of deposit. I wish to be understood on this point: an individual painter or sculptor might be greatly benefited by borrowing out a capital picture from the National Gallery, or the Torso, Venus, or Portland Vase from the British Museum; but such a loan would by no means benefit artists in general, or advance the ultimate interests of painting or sculpture. This holds good equally with regard to valuable books.

2878. What is the state of the King's Inn library; how far is that accessible to the public?—No persons are properly admissible to it, except members of the Inn, different arms of the law.

2879. Mr. *Wyld.*] It is not, in fact, a public library?—It is not; it is the private property of the Corporation.

2880. What are the means of access to the library?—I do not exactly know; I believe that if I, as a barrister, was to bring in any gentleman, the librarian would make no objection to him; but the public have no access to it.

2881. Is the collection of books at the King's Inn library principally composed of law books?—By no means; they had the copyright books till lately.

2882. *Chairman.*] And even now the library receives 300 *l.* a year from Parliament?—It does, in exchange for its surrendered copyright.

2883. Mr. *Wyld.*] Ought not the King's Inn library to be made more available for public use than it now is?—I think that, without any damage to the library of King's Inn, or to the different members of the Inn, the public might be more freely admitted into it.

2884. Might not they be admitted in the evening?—It is not open in the evening; it is only open while the courts of law are open, and therefore little used by barristers; we have another library, a fine law library, at the courts, for use in court hours, maintained by private subscription.

2885. *Chairman.*] Have they a good catalogue, and do they lay out the money annually granted to them by the public in books?—They have a good catalogue, and, I have no doubt, lay out the money in books; the library is little known, but it is a very good library; the benchers regulate it; I am not a bencher.

2886. Is not the difficulty of admission to the King's Inn library a good deal complained of in Dublin?—I have stated that, strictly speaking, none but members of the Inn have admission; any other admission is by courtesy.

2887. Do not you think that inasmuch as they receive public money every year, it ought to be publicly accessible?—I will not exactly say publicly accessible without restriction.

2888. What is the accessibility of Marsh's Library?—Originally any person receiving an introduction from a citizen of Dublin was admissible to Marsh's Library; now they require that some person who is actually known at the library shall be the recommender. I have got one of the Forms of Recommendation in my hand; they appear to have become more strict; I was introduced into the library when a boy by the late Archbishop (Cleaver) of Dublin; since that, although I constantly visit it when I have occasion, yet when the other day I wished to introduce a gentleman, I was told that I must first get a regular introduction for myself from some person whose name was already there, as the librarian's assistant had not my name in his list.

2889. Is not Marsh's Library quite accessible to the public?—It is; but persons

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sons do not know how to set about obtaining admission to it: it lies in an obscure corner: they have no funds for purchasing books: and though it is a noble library, as a divinity library, it is but little used: one librarian kept a piano there.

2890. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Was that recently?—No: but within my memory; its endowment only pays the librarian's salary: there is no fund for purchase, and it has depended for increase for a century on donations.

2891. *Chairman.*] What is the availability of Trinity College Library?—Trinity College Library, latterly, is much more available to the public than it was; no person has the right of admission to it, except graduates of the University: no person who has not taken a master's degree, and who is not actually a resident master in the College, has a right to take books down and show them to strangers; but any stranger introduced as a literary man is freely admitted, on taking the library oath required by statute.

2892. Mr. *Hamilton.*] In point of fact, is not it very much frequented by parties who are not graduates?—It is now: I think now there is nothing to be complained of in the library, as far as admission goes. There is but one rule against which any objection could be made, which is this, that a person who has been an undergraduate of Trinity College, and has not taken out his degree, although he has taken his name off the books, is considered, having been once an under-graduate, as being ever an under-graduate, and they will not, under any circumstances, admit him: such was the strict rule; but they have in some instances lately relaxed that.

2893. Then it is not open to students?—The statutes prevent the admission of under-graduates; but I think now no complaint can be made of it; latterly the library has been much more liberally open than it was.

2894. *Chairman.*] It has the power of exacting a copy of every work published from the author, has it not?—It has.

2895. Mr. *Wyld.*] Do not you think that where an institution possesses that national privilege, it ought to be open freely to the public?—I think it should; but I think that such a privilege ought not to exist at all; I think, for the encouragement of literature, those richly endowed institutions ought to be obliged to purchase out of their own funds every work entered at Stationers' Hall; I speak of endowed bodies with large estates.

2896. Viscount *Ebrington.*] Do you speak of every public library in the country?—I speak of large societies richly endowed in land or otherwise.

2897. *Chairman.*] If a library receives those books from the authors, ought not the public, in return for that privilege granted to the library, to have access to those books?—I think so, certainly; but I again must protest against the public requiring either author or publisher to pay the price of any accommodation which the public has need of: the copies of four books alone, which, a few years since those rich corporations received under the Copyright Act, cost the publishers above 2,000 *l.*

2898. What provincial libraries are there in Ireland?—I am not qualified to speak upon that with sufficient exactness. There is one in Kilkenny, maintained by private subscription; it was flourishing some years since, but injured by sectarian dissensions.

2899. Are the Committee to infer from your evidence, that there is a want of public libraries in Dublin?—There is a want of a library which shall be freely accessible to the public; I consider a library to be freely accessible to the public when it is as accessible as that of the Dublin Society or the British Museum; for the present I contemplate nothing more free than that.

2900. Mr. *Wyld.*] Have you anything to suggest as to any means of making existing public libraries accessible to the public?—I do not think the College Library can be thrown much more widely open than it is at present; I think the good feeling of the College is gradually and steadily increasing; I think matters are fast tending in that direction, and that the College Library will be freely open to every person to whom such a library can be really useful. As regards Marsh's Library, that is sufficiently open to any person who wishes to resort to it.

2901. *Chairman.*] The King's Inn Library is not accessible to the public?—The King's Inn Library is not.

2902. And yet that library receives 300 *l.* a year from the public?—Yes.

2903. Therefore there are two libraries in Dublin, one of which receives books from the authors, and the other receives compensation from the public, and neither of them are accessible to the public?—Neither of them are accessible to the public without restriction; the College Library is more accessible than the King's Inns.

2904. Mr. *Wyld.*] In your opinion, are there any means that could be adopted to make those existing libraries more accessible to the public than they are now?—I think that in the instances of King's Inn and the College Library, the force of public opinion will soon make them as accessible as would be at all desirable.

2905. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Supposing the College Library were completely accessible to the public, is there sufficient accommodation for reading in the library?—Yes, I think there is; the room is upwards of 200 feet long and 40 feet wide, and 40 feet high, with a gallery round it.

2906. *Chairman.*] Is there a separate room for readers?—Now there is the Old Philosophy Room; that is turned into a separate room for readers.

2907. Is that ample?—It is ample for the present number of readers.

2908. But as you consider that a separate room for readers is a necessary adjunct to a library, if that library were thrown open to the publtc, would not an additional room be required?—Not necessarily; in the library of Trinity College, on each side, there are ranges of shelves projecting into the room, forming pews, with a window in each; and students are not allowed to read in those pews, but they read at the open tables in the centre. They are under complete supervision, and have no access to the shelves.

2909. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Do you think that the University Library, which, to a great extent, is a library of deposit, stands, or ought to stand, precisely in the same position as another library, with respect to accessibility?—I should say, certainly not.

2910. Mr. *Wyld.*] Even although it has the privilege of receiving from the public every work published?—All my feelings are in favour of throwing libraries as open as possible; but I should say, notwithstanding it enjoys that privilege, looking at it as a library of deposit, I believe that the public are best served by the preservation of the books for occasional reference.

2911. *Chairman.*] Might not a library of deposit have a circulating department attached to it, so that those books which are of less importance might be allowed to be taken out and read, and books of great value, which are chiefly used for occasional reference, might be kept separate and secure?—In the evidence I have given, I have expressly stated that; that they should be separated by forming one library that would be common, and the other less accessible.

2912. Mr. *Brotherton.*] None of those libraries that you have been speaking of are lending libraries at present?—None; with the exception of the Dublin Society, the books of which are lent to the corporate members; they are lent to about 13,000 persons a year, on the average, taking the members and their families.

2913. They avail themselves of that privilege?—The members avail themselves of it largely; within the last year, ending the 1st of March last, there were borrowed at the library 3,500 volumes; it is the privilege of the members who support the institution.

2914. They take the books out?—They take the books out under the regulations which are mentioned in the front of the catalogue, which are designed as far as possible to prevent any abuse of the practice. The library committee relaxes the rule on special occasions by lending out prohibited books. One of these was lent to Mr. Duffy, of Ball's Bridge, for a week; he had stamps and cylinders cut from it, and within a month after this book had been purchased, the arabesques of Moorish Spain, copied from it, were printed on Mr. Duffy's cottons and on sale in England.

2915. Mr. *Hamilton.*] The University Library stands within the walls of the College?—It does.

2916. Subject, of course, to the regulations which the governing body think it necessary to make with reference to access into the premises of the College generally?—Certainly; and subject to its own statutes, according to which the librarian, who is Vice-Provost of the University, is obliged every day at four o'clock to lock up the library, which he does with his own hand to the minute; he opens it himself in the morning, and is bound by oath, taken under the statute, to do so.

2917. Unlimited access to the library might interfere with the other regulations of the College?—Very much.

2918. *Chairman.*] Are there any duplicates in these Dublin libraries?—I am not aware as to Trinity College Library; in the Dublin Society, very few.

2919. Generally

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2919. Generally in those libraries are there duplicate or triplicate copies of books?—I should say not; the few that we have at the Dublin Society have arisen from two causes; either they are books that have been presented to us, of which we had copies already, or they are books that we have purchased, where we have found it necessary to buy improved editions of books, or where a book has been so much in demand that we thought it necessary to possess a second copy; generally a cheaper edition for lending out.

2920. Are there not a certain number of books which are so much in demand that a library which has any extent of circulation would require to have two or more copies of them?—Yes, we find it so, even with the restricted circulation we have.

2921. Has any idea ever been suggested of forming another public library in Dublin?—It has been suggested to form a public library in Dublin which should be free to the public without any introduction at all, like the Bibliothèque du Roi at Paris, or with some slight modifications; several have thought of it; I and some others were interested about the subject some 22 years since; we found that the library of the Dublin Society was the only one that could be made applicable to that purpose, and it was partly for the purpose of making it so that I became a member of the Dublin Society, and afterwards of the Library Committee. Our first thought was to petition Parliament for a grant to found a library; but we received no encouragement to do so.

2922. Mr. *Wyld.*] Can you give the Committee any classification of the grades of society of which the readers at the Royal Dublin Society are composed, and of the numbers of each grade?—There is no classification; they are all of the somewhat educated classes.

2923. Do you think that if the library were made more available for the middle and working classes, it would have a great moral and social effect upon the city of Dublin?—I know that some of the brightest lights in society come from the lower classes: but I should say that at present it would not be necessary, nor do I think it could be used to any good purpose.

2924. Is not there a great thirst for learning among the middle and lower classes of the Irish people?—It is spreading considerably; it always existed.

2925. Do not you think that the opening of those libraries would foster and encourage that taste?—I think it is rather too early for it; I agree in the principle, but I think it rather early for it; I think that to create a great metropolitan library, and to throw it open, as the British Museum is, would be best for the social improvement of the people.

2926. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Is not the Dublin Society Library as open as that of the British Museum?—It is; but it is contracted in its supply of books.

2927. *Chairman.*] What would be, in your opinion, the best mode of establishing a large public library in Dublin?—I think the best germ of it would be the library of the Dublin Society.

2928. How would you make it of the desired extent?—By enlarging the funds, and by appointing visitors to the Society, with such powers of supervision as Parliament should think necessary.

2929. Would you combine with it any existing libraries?—By no manner of means; I think that should be guarded against. The rivalry between three or four libraries existing at Dublin, and the superiority of some in particular departments, has stimulated others to exertion, and has produced great improvements; besides which there are great social and political reasons against doing more than selecting one library, and enlarging that.

2930. What do you think the best position in Dublin for a public library?—As to the mere locality, I think that a matter rather immaterial, provided it is not in some obscure distant place. The original premises of the Dublin Society in Hawkins-street were more central than the present; but the present, I think, would be as desirable a position as any. It is in a fashionable quarter, and all the tastes and best affections of even the very lowest order of Irishmen (except in the North-east of Ulster) are decidedly aristocratic and monarchical.

2931. The point which you would most aim at would be an extension of the funds of the Royal Dublin Society?—My evidence points to the conservation of every library in Dublin as it at present exists, and to the extension of that one which may be extended with the least amount of public damage into a library completely popular.

2932. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Will you explain in what manner an extension of the

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funds would become requisite, in order to make the Dublin Society Library more generally available?—For the purchase of books; we have but 500 *l.* a year applicable to that purpose.

2933. Mr. *Brotherton.*] You were understood to say that you are opposed to the plan of authors contributing copies of their books to public libraries gratuitously; on what ground do you disapprove of it?—It is a very severe tax upon a publisher; I find it upon record, that the eleven copies of four works alone cost the publishers above 2,000 *l.*

2934. Would you wish that a copy of every work that is published should be purchased at the public expense?—Probably not, because many of them are worthless and mischievous.

2935. Mr. *Wyld.*] You would make a selection?—Yes.

2936. *Chairman.*] Who is to make the selection; should not a library of deposit be a library which contains everything, by which means you have a vast mine, which of course contains some dross with the ore, but still you secure the one?—The resolution of the library committee of the Dublin Society, prefixed to the catalogue now on your table, will show that the rule we have gone upon has been to consider that "no book whatever is out of place in a public library:" therefore, although our limited funds restrict the purchase of books, we receive donations of every book offered without exception.

2937. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Dross as well as valuable metal?—Yes, much that appears to be dross we have found available, nay, valuable as evidence even.

2938. *Chairman.*] Is not the law which obliges an author or publisher to send a copy of every work published attended with this advantage, that it insures the reception in some public place of deposit of every published work?—It does not; for I understand that in the library of Trinity College they decline to receive either music or novels.

2939. Viscount *Ebrington.*] You are aware that the British Museum receives everything?—Yes.

2940. *Chairman.*] Where that is not done, that is rather the fault of the library, than of the system?—That is rather the fault of the library than of the system.

2941. Therefore, against the system you do not object, but it is against the non-use of the system that you object?—I do object to the system, and also to the non-use of it, in this the only point which, even plausibly, justifies its existence.

2942. Mr. *Wyld.*] You say, that at the Royal Dublin Society only some few intelligent and educated artizans have availed themselves of the privilege of your library?—No person has the privilege who is not introduced by a member, or by those who have been introduced.

2943. Some few educated persons of the artizan class do use the library?—I would say, a watchmaker or an optician, or an intelligent manufacturer, or a journeyman to those trades, if he happened to be a person of respectable demeanour, with whom any person might sit down in the library without offence, is never excluded; such a one only comes for specific information; he has no time for literary indulgence.

2944. If the accessibility were extended, and if the library were kept open till a later period of the evening, would not a large number of the artizan class avail themselves of the privilege of the library?—I should think they would; but they have the Mechanics' Institute; I think the efficacy of the library would be injured by making the access more indiscriminate. In one word, I have taken the British Museum library as a safe and intelligible standard: as far as you open that, we are prepared to open ours.

2945. Does that agree with the evidence which you have previously given, as to making a public library, of which you would make this the nucleus?—I wish the admission to be as wide and as speedy as possible; but I cannot conceive such a thing practicable as absolutely indiscriminate admission; I think there ought to be at least decency of dress and demeanour.

2946. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Would you leave a discretion with the librarian in those matters, to exclude a person, if he came in improperly dressed, for instance?—A discretion should reside somewhere, and I think the librarian ought to have the power of excluding any individual who is offensive in his apparel. I presume you exclude him at the British Museum, and I know you ought to do so.

2947. *Chairman.*] If you heard that in France, Italy, Belgium, Holland and Germany, anybody who comes, native or stranger, is freely admitted, and that very

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very little injury results from that, should you despair of the same result being obtained from the population of Ireland?—I have visited libraries in France and Belgium, and without introduction, and have upon my notes here what is scarcely necessary for me to advert to. M. Libri's letter to M. De Falloux, which shows that a good deal of injury arises from that. In reply to a single requisition, London booksellers produced 82 copies, and Paris booksellers 121 (in all 203) of stolen books, with the library stamp.

2948. Do you think that the injury which, with proper surveillance, would arise is to be set against the advantage that would result to the great mass of the public, from having free access to books?—Certainly it is not, I would rather give access; but if you are to have indiscriminate admission, to do the thing properly, you should divide public libraries into libraries of general admission and circulation, and libraries of deposit, where the use of the books should be so far restricted as to prevent the possibility of their being injured. In the Dublin Society we have got books which are not to be found elsewhere in Ireland; we have given 100 guineas for 10 volumes, 27*l.* for one volume, 30*l.* for four volumes, and 110*l.* for one volume alone.

2949. Supposing those requisites were found, and there was proper surveillance in those libraries, you would then suppose that Irishmen would be quite as capable of appreciating books and abstaining from injuring them, or would become so, as the other nations to whom reference has been made?—I should say rather more so than many of them; the only outrage that we have recently had in Dublin was in the library of Trinity College by a German. There was indeed a felonious theft there by a barrister, who was prosecuted, but he was a degraded and impoverished man.

2950. Have the museums and galleries of art, and other public institutions in Dublin, been more freely opened of late years than formerly?—I think so.

2951. Have the public abused that additional privilege which has been given of free access to those museums and galleries?—No: the museum of the Dublin Society has been always open to the public; and I have never known but one instance of plunder; the museum was entered through a window by night, a glass-case broken open, out of which was stolen a casket, containing glass models of the Pitt, Pigot, and other great diamonds, under each of which was written its name and money value; the thief thought he carried off some millions worth.

2952. Mr. *Hamilton*.] It has been open to the public without recommendation or restriction?—Yes: anybody who pleases walks in, provided he is dressed without offence.

2953. *Chairman*.] But of late years there has been more free access to those institutions than there formerly was?—To the College Museum there has.

2954. And that has been unattended with much abuse, and it has been attended with positive good to the people?—It has been attended with good, of course in proportion to the nature of the contents of the museum, and it has been unattended with any abuse.

2955. Do you think that the same people who appreciate those institutions might be taught to appreciate such useful institutions as public libraries?—Certainly, but they must learn to manipulate books without injury.

2956. Do not you think that where the public are freely admitted you create a kind of public police by their very presence, which affords a kind of safeguard for the collection, whereas where a man is admitted secretly the very privacy of the place tempts him to offend sometimes?—Where a man is admitted with positive secrecy, of course there is no restriction over him at all, but when a man is admitted with modified publicity, it is sufficient.

2957. You are aware that in many of our institutions in England, people were once admitted with modified publicity; are you also aware that there has been much less abuse since there has been perfect publicity?—I am aware that in our ecclesiastical buildings there is much less abuse where there is perfect publicity; but the case is not altogether in point; works of art, statues and paintings are objects for the eye alone, which cannot injure; books, to be used, must be fingered.

2958. Mr. *Wyld*.] A ticket for admission to the library of the Dublin Society lasts for three months only?—Yes.

2959. Has it ever been necessary to refuse a renewal of that privilege?—Never but once, and even in that instance it was from no malfeasance by the individual excluded; but such representations were made of his general character as rendered it necessary for the committee to exclude him: he was by no manner of means one of the humbler class of life, but the contrary.

2960. Mr. *Hamilton.*] The Dublin Society is to Dublin very much what the British Museum is to London?—Yes, and also what the Royal Institution in Albemarle-street is, and the Society of Arts also.

2961. Can you state, being a member of the council of the Dublin Society, whether there is a disposition and anxiety on the part of the governing body there to make the institution as available for public purposes as possible?—As available as they possibly can, according to their judgment.

2962. A school of design is about to be established, in connexion with it, for Dublin?—It is; that is to say, a single class for manufacturing design is to be added to our drawing-school, which has taught every other branch of design for more than a century, and educated Shee, Behnes, Hogan, Barry, and many such artists.

2963. *Chairman.*] Is there anything else that you wish to state to the Committee?—The scheme which I would suggest would be, that if it be under contemplation to form a public library in Dublin of any existing library, no one of the few that exist shall on any account be extinguished, but that some one library shall be selected and expanded into the proposed public one; or if that does not suit the views of Parliament, then that they should be all allowed to subsist as independent societies, and that Parliament should grant funds to form a new national library.

2964. Mr. *Hamilton.*] But in the event of its being thought desirable to expand any existing library, and to make it available for the public, your evidence points to the library, of the Dublin Society as the fittest for that purpose?—I would point to that as the only one that is absolutely capable of being so expanded; as to any injury to the books, I believe that would arise merely from ignorance of the nature of them, and want of practice in the safe manipulation.

2965. *Chairman.*] When the people became more aware of the value of the books, they would take more care of them?—They will take more care when they become aware how books should be handled; no people can be better aware of the value of books, or respect them more, than the Irish.

2966. Education has very much increased of late years in Ireland, has not it?—Yes.

2967. Does not that point out the desirableness of supplying fuel to feed the flame of education?—Certainly; but we may be made to pay too dearly even for that.

2968. By what means?—By the inevitable increase of public discontent, if you claim credit for giving Dublin a public library, and seize upon those which we have already to form it; for there exists, unfortunately, among the Irish, a strong impression, that for every pound given by Parliament to Ireland ten are taken away, without any corresponding public economy; that all recent reforms, either of our state or of our social institutions, consist in centralizing ten large establishments into one small, and twenty moderate salaries into one sufficiently large to be an instrument of political influence; and they are sufficiently astute to argue, that this sweeping away in succession of every national establishment impoverishes and degrades our social condition, and only results in the transaction of Irish business in London, by English officials, instead of the employment of an equal number of Irish in Dublin. I merely state current opinion.

2969. Is there anything else that you wish to state with reference to the library of the Dublin Society?—I wish to mention that the Dublin Society has made its library available to all persons to whom a library can be of real use. In this it is wisely fulfilling its own condition; that of a "Society for the Improvement of Ireland." To effect this improvement, it has complied with the requirements of the times, and has gradually expanded its departments, and enlarged its operations to the utmost extent that the limited resources at its command will allow. This library at no time was absolutely inaccessible to the public; as the value of it became gradually known and appreciated, it was more extensively used; and the increasing numbers that sought for admission rendered necessary the regulations for the admission of visitors framed by the library committee, and (in 1839) cheerfully and gracefully confirmed by the society at large. Under these regulations, no more is required than introduction to the library by a member of the society; easily enough obtained, as the majority of the members (now above 800 in

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in number) are resident in Dublin, and comprise many gradations of rank and varieties of profession. This introduction is good only for three months, but is renewed without difficulty. The expiration of it at the end of every three months easily purges the library of objectionable visitors, without casting on the committee the duty (too invidious to be faithfully performed) of excluding individuals by special order. All that is further required of visitors is the entry of their names at every visit in a book (which no visitor should omit to do, as a yearly return of the number is now required by the Treasury, for Parliament), and compliance with a few regulations, simple and unburthensome as is consistent with the preservation of the books. The library of the British Museum, which is altogether public property, is not more available to the public than that of the Dublin Society. This library, too, is open daily for six hours (from 11 p.m. until 5 p.m.), on the average, during at least 300 days in the year. In ordinary it is only closed for 53 or 54 days in each year; that is, on Sunday, Good Friday and Christmas-day. It is never closed at any other time but by a special order of the committee, approved of by the council or the society at large, and then seldom for more than a week, and very rarely for a fortnight at a time. Such recesses are no holidays to the library officers, whose labour, in regulating the library and in making repairs, is much greater than when the room is actually open. The objects of the Dublin Society are various. It has sections, to which professors and masters are attached. The library was originally formed, and is still maintained, to be ancillary to these departments; and of late years, the library committee, considering that the diffusion of information in subjects of general literature is a main element in the professed object of the society (the improvement of Ireland), have given a liberal construction to this rule, and voyages, travels, antiquities, history, memoirs, and periodical literature are now provided. Party politics and religious controversy are excluded, as far as is consistent with the formation of an historical department; but no history is rejected on account of the peculiar opinions of the author. The committee, considering that no book, however beyond the line which limits their power of selection, is (unless it be positively blasphemous or indecent) out of place in a public library, receive, as a donation, every book offered as such. Hence, the library is rich and varied. Splendid works on everything connected with the objects enumerated; works too costly for private libraries, and many not to be found elsewhere in Ireland (some not even in Great Britain), are accessible in this library; and the periodicals, literary, scientific, and artistical, domestic and foreign, afford constant information of all that is actually in progress. Some years since the Library Committee agreed that each of its members, in addition to his general duties in the committee, should specially apply himself to the formation or perfection of some department with which taste, opportunity, or profession had made him well acquainted. This has worked well. For example, the architectural books in the library, although valuable, were few and old, the engineering books, just none at all: now, there is a collection of architecture and of civil engineering, with all the periodicals on these subjects, brought down to the present day, unequalled by any other in Ireland. We know not where else we could find such books as "Letaronilli," "Zittorf," and the works of the great architects of Prussia and Bavaria. The rules of selection are still further relaxed in favour of works by Irish authors, and want of funds alone stints the growth of a noble collection of books on Ireland. There is good store of them, too; and the Committee have shown no disregard to this department, when, for example, they lately secured the fine Thorpe collection of Irish Tracts, at the price of one hundred guineas. The Society's collection of Irish pamphlets is very voluminous, but calls loudly for re-arrangement in chronological order, which the committee have deferred on account of the great expense of so much binding, and further, in the hope of making the collection more perfect. For this purpose, the public were requested to send in stray tracts for sale, or as donations; not one was offered for sale, and the donations were few. The single tract or broadside, which is of little value individually, becomes valuable as part of a series; and we know no means by which our countrymen could more effectually contribute materials for the history of past times and manners in Ireland, than by sending such to this library, where the writers on Irish subjects can alone hope for easy access to them. The library contains between twelve thousand and thirteen thousand volumes, disposed in three apartments and a gallery. The allotment for the purchase and binding of books is only 500*l.* per annum. From neglect in old times, there is a formidable arrear of binding, and a lamentable want of sufficient

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shelving and accommodation; yet the limited funds of the society cannot afford any provision for these wants—and a still more serious want exists, that of a reading-room for visitors, as in the British Museum. Such a room it was the intention of the society to supply, by adding to the library the present museum rooms. The society has built a new museum, which remains useless, from causes totally (it is feared) beyond the control of the society. Thus the museum, the first in the metropolis of Ireland, is still confined to a few rooms, most of them of the size of ordinary bed-chambers; and that which is virtually the great public library of Ireland, is not only cramped in its means of purchasing, but is unable to render the books which it already has, safe and accessible.

Mr. *Eugene Curry*; further Examined.

Mr. *Eugene Curry*.

2970. Mr. *Wyld*.] WHAT are the oldest manuscripts you have in the Royal Irish Academy?—The oldest manuscript that contains Irish matter is the Book of Armagh; the body of the book is Latin, but there is Irish in it, which is the oldest Irish that we know of; the matter in Irish is the Life of St. Patrick.

2971. Can you state the date of it?—The date of it has been ascertained to be about the year 809, but part of it professes to be copied from a book written by St. Patrick's own hand.

2972. Do those Irish manuscripts principally refer to Ecclesiastical History?—Those which I speak of now do chiefly, but they contain also many valuable references to men and manners of the early times. The next I would mention is a manuscript in the Royal Irish Academy, known as "Leabhar na H-uidhre," or the "Book of the Dun Cow."

2973. Do not many of those manuscripts relate to the ancient history of the Norman families?—The manuscripts of that age do not, but many of the manuscripts from the year 1300 downwards do.

2974. What is the subject of the book of the Dun Cow?—Unfortunately there is a good deal of it lost, but the first article is the Book of Genesis; it is for the purpose of carrying out the pedigrees of the Milesian Colonists and other colonists in Ireland; then the next article, as well as I can remember, is an ancient tract called Táin B'o Cuailgne, or the Plunder of Cows of Coolney; that tract must be as old as the seventh century, from the character of the language, manners, customs, and habits of the people mentioned in it; there is no reference whatever to anything Christian; the book was written about the year 1100; the man who wrote it died in the year 1106, and he only compiled it from other works at the time, which he quotes, as for instance, the Book of Drom Sneacht, compiled before A.D. 400, the Yellow Book of Slane, the Book of Glengeven, and others.

2975. Mr. *Thicknesse*.] Is that the oldest manuscript you have, or the oldest on Irish affairs?—We have a copy of the Gospels older than that.

2976. Mr. *Wyld*.] Will you describe generally the manuscripts you have?—There is a manuscript of the 12th century, which has reference to manuscripts three or four centuries earlier; they are historical, referring to the branchings of families, and to wars, battles and marriages; there is a great deal of reference to England, Scotland and Wales, to ancient Britain and Cornwall, incursions into Britain, and incursions from Britain and from Scotland into Ireland.

2977. Mr. *Hamilton*.] Do they appear likely to illustrate in important particulars, ancient traditions and history?—Yes, very much so; I do not know any other sources so likely.

2978. And also Ethnology?—Yes, and botany and natural history.

2979. And the progress of language?—Yes; the affinities of languages and races; I do not know where language is to be found so remote as in those Irish manuscripts. There is, for instance, Corma's Glossary, compiled before the year 902, into which he introduces numerous comparisons between the Gaelic, Hebrew, Greek, Latin, British, Gallic and Normthmantic languages.

2980. Mr. *Wyld*.] Filling up a large portion of history which is now lost to us between the ancient Roman time and modern time?—Yes.

2981. Can you state the history of this manuscript?—The history of the manuscript of the book of the Dun Cow, which I speak of, is this: it was compiled about the year 1100, and it passed into the possession of the O'Donnell's, of Donegal; there is a memorandum in the book itself written in the year 1345, which says that it was then in the hands of O'Connor, of Sligo, and that he had got it in

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ransom for John O'Doherty, the chief of Ardmire, in the county of Donegal, whom he had taken prisoner. There is another memorandum following that which says, "Pray for Hugh O'Donnell who forcibly took this book from the people of Connaught after they had it during the reign of ten kings of Sligo;" that was in the year 1470.

2982. Will you state the general character of the other manuscripts that they have at the Royal Irish Academy?—The general character is historical, containing also ancient pedigrees of Irish families, and Scotch families, and a great deal of reference to British and old Saxon families, and a good deal of reference to men going abroad, coming over from and going to the continent; ecclesiastics and other men travelling, and founding churches all over Europe.

2983. The Danish Government have had access to those manuscripts, have they not?—Yes; any person has access to them.

2984. An agent was sent from the Danish Government to inspect those manuscripts?—Yes.

2985. Did he not find evidence existing connecting a large portion of those manuscripts with the ancient history of Denmark?—Yes, he found explanations of Danish history in these manuscripts, which he was never able to find at home; names of many places and of men in Denmark, which they were not able to read in their own manuscripts, were so clearly set down in these manuscripts, that he was at once satisfied of their correctness; they explain several difficulties in the history of that country.

2986. Do not many rare existing manuscripts in other libraries refer to manuscripts in the possession of the Royal Irish Academy?—Yes, and also to those in Trinity College; the collection in the College is equally good.

2987. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Are the College manuscripts as ancient as those of the Royal Irish Academy?—Yes.

2988. Which is the most ancient of their manuscripts?—They have manuscripts of the same time as the one of which I have spoken last, about the year 1100; the pedigrees in it come down to about 1133; the manuscript itself must have been written before the year 1156; we know who wrote it; he died in that year; he was a distinguished abbot and ecclesiastic of Leinster, tutor to Dermot M'Morogh, who was the prince who first invited Strongbow to Ireland.

2989. Is not there a manuscript of a portion of the scriptures which there is reason to believe belonged to St. Columba?—There is.

2990. What is the date of that?—It is believed to be about the year 560; he died about 590.

2991. Is not the penmanship of that very good?—There is nothing like it known; it was so beautifully written that people always called it "the Book of the Angel;" they did not believe that it had been written by the hand of man. And Mr. Westwood, who lately published a book of specimens of continental illuminated manuscripts of the middle ages, published a specimen of this also, but he failed to represent it accurately, the lines are so complex and so exquisitely delicate.

2992. Mr. *Wyld.*] Would not the publication of these manuscripts tend greatly to disabuse the minds of the Irish people of the traditions among them respecting the possession of property, and the descent of inheritances?—Doubtless it would; it would correct a great many historical errors which they are labouring under. There is another subject connected with the Academy, and that is the Museum of the Academy, which is very important; it contains gold, silver, and bronze articles of the greatest antiquity, and swords and spears so like those found on the site of the siege of Troy, that they can scarcely be distinguished; bronze axes, stone axes and hammers; also ancient crescents of gold for the forehead, collars for the neck, gold torques of great value, rings and silver brooches, beautifully carved and executed; some of these must have belonged to Pagan times in Ireland; we can easily see what belonged to Christian times; there are some carvings that have reference to Christianity, but in the greater part there is no reference whatever to it in the designs; they are plain gold ornaments, ornamented after a very peculiar manner, and the mass of those is very great.

2993. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Is not the workmanship of some of them very curious and exquisite?—It is; and when they are properly and honestly compared with the antiquarian remains of other countries, they will doubtless throw much important light on the early migrations of man from the east and their separations and locations in Europe.

2994. Mr. *Wyld.*] Do any of those manuscripts refer to the Euskardian or Phœnician period of Irish history?—A great many refer to what is called that period; those have reference not only to Irish history, but to the history of Europe, and have sometimes to Eastern history, the Assyrian empire, the Egyptian empire, and Syria and Scandinavia. There is a very curious tract contained in one of them, on the dispersion of the descendants of Noah, and the distinct races descended from his sons; the tract is of very great antiquity.

2995. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Do those manuscripts of which you have last spoken illustrate and confirm the received notions of ancient history?—Not exactly; on a late examination it has been discovered that the remote antiquity of Ireland would be cut down some hundreds of years, and there are a great number of little facts to be found in them, which would be of the greatest possible use to an ancient historian, not only of Ireland, but of Europe.

2996. These manuscripts would be of great value, as tending to illustrate a very remote period of the history of Ireland?—Certainly; until these manuscripts are thoroughly examined and published, and submitted to the search of general and universal scholars, the history of Ireland cannot possibly be properly written, nor its early colonists identified with their parent stock; but a respectable history of Ireland can be proved by them; and I repeat it, that they contain tracts and poems of the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth centuries that are calculated to throw much valuable light on the early history of Europe. There is in the Royal Irish Academy a tract on the wars of Alexander the Great, translated from an author whose name is not known to the best scholars in Dublin. This tract was copied about the year 1350, from the Book of St. Bearchan, of Clonsost, in the Queen's County, which book must have been compiled before the year 700.

2997. Are they also of value as relating to the history of surrounding nations?—Yes; particularly in the early Christian times.

Jovis, 24° *die Maii,* 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Brotherton.	Mr. Kershaw.
Mr. Ewart.	Viscount Ebrington.
Mr. Wyld.	Mr. Charteris.
Mr. Thicknesse.	

WILLIAM EWART, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Simon Waley Waley, Esq.; Examined.

2998. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you have resided in France?—I have never resided for any time in France, but I have been in the habit of going to Boulogne and passing a considerable period there, for a good many years.

2999. Do you know anything of the provincial libraries of France?—I am tolerably well acquainted with the library at Boulogne from having often read there, and knowing the librarian, and several gentlemen connected with its management; I have also had several books pass through my hands which they have bought or which they have had presented to them in England.

3000. Do you consider the Boulogne library a fair specimen of the provincial libraries in France?—I fancy, that in most of the large towns in France, similar libraries exist, very much resembling it in management.

3001. Therefore, you think that any information you can afford the Committee respecting the Boulogne library would be a correct representation of the general state of the provincial libraries in France?—I should think so.

3002. How long has the Public Library in Boulogne been founded?—It was founded in the year 1798, in the time of the first French Revolution; there were several great libraries connected with the monasteries in that part of France broken up, and at that time, Monsieur Daunou, who was a distinguished historian, and a native of the town of Boulogne, bought a great many manuscripts and curious works from several of those collections, and that was the foundation of the library.

3003. Monsieur Daunou was subsequently a peer of France?—He was; I believe he took an important part in politics, as well as in literature, during his life.

3004. When did he die?—In 1840.

3005. Was he the librarian?—The first librarian was Monsieur Isnardi.

3006. Is the Boulogne library of considerable use to the town?—I think it is of very great use; whenever I have been there, I have seen a good many people there.

3007. It is connected with a museum?—In the same building there is the museum, and also the college.

3008. Is it found productive of good results, the library and the museum being together?—Yes; it is a great advantage for persons who are studying those subjects in which they are desirous both of seeing the various specimens, and of consulting the books referring to them.

3009. From what you have observed at Boulogne, you think that is a desirable conjunction?—I think it is in many respects advantageous.

3010. To whom does the library belong?—The library belongs to the town; the building in which it is situated, including the library, the museum, and the whole establishment, belongs to the town.

3011. How is it governed?—It is governed by a committee, of which the Mayor is president, and several members of the Municipal Council are members.

3012. Do you know that to be the fact?—I think I am correct in that respect.

3013. Do the committee meet at particular periods?—I believe they meet once every month; but they meet, I fancy, oftener, if there is any occasion to do so.

3014. Have they established bye-laws?—They regulate the hours of admission and other points connected with the management of the institution, mostly on the proposals that are made to them by the librarian.

3015. Who is the librarian?—The librarian is a gentleman who is by profession a barrister, a man of very considerable literary attainments; he is appointed by the committee; there is also a sub-librarian, whose duty is rather to look after the books, to see that they are in good preservation, and to attend to them.

3016. Mr. *Brotherton.*] What is the name of the librarian?—Monsieur Gérard.

3017. *Chairman.*] Does the library afford great facilities to those who are pursuing literary inquiries?—The library is open every day from 10 till 4, with the exception of Fridays and vacations; everybody who likes, can take in pen and paper to take extracts. The librarian and sub-librarian are always there ready to answer questions, or to fetch any book that people may ask for.

3018. Have you heard any instance of abuse resulting from this freedom of access to the library?—None, that I am aware of; I think they lost several books before the present librarian was appointed; I fancy it was rather from the dishonesty of some persons appointed by the former librarian.

3019. Should you say that from having this advantage, and enjoying the use of the books, the public are inclined to use them properly, and learn by degrees to take care of them?—I should think so; I always noticed, when I was there, that the people took the greatest care of the books given to them, and there seems great order; you never hear any noise at all; the people seem to be absorbed in the studies which lead them to go there.

3020. Have they more rooms than one?—They have several rooms, some of them very quiet; persons can go to any room they prefer; and, in fact, they have almost the advantage of being by themselves in working there. This rather relates to those known or introduced to the librarian; by the regulations, readers must remain in the large room where he or the sub-librarian sits.

3021. Can the books be taken away from the library?—By the rules they cannot be taken away, but I fancy that rule is not always strictly enforced, particularly if any person is writing a work, or a person of literary attainments wishes to have books to consult for any particular purpose.

3022. Mr. *Brotherton.*] What are the hours of attendance?—From 10 to 4 every day; the library used to be open in the evening, but it was found that very few people went there, and they had some fear of fire, and that induced them not to open it in the evening.

3023. *Chairman.*] It was not lighted by gas, was it?—No, it is not lighted by gas.

3024. How is the library supported?—By the town; they subscribe a certain sum every year, varying from year to year, which goes to the salary of the librarian and the sub-librarian, and to keep the place in repair, and for binding books, and for purchasing new books.

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3025. Is it supported out of the town-rates?—It forms part of the general expenditure; I cannot say from what particular source of revenue it is derived; the whole revenues of the town derived from octroi and other sources amount to something between 16,000*l.* and 20,000*l.*, and a portion of that goes to the library, probably a small portion.

3026. Mr. *Brotherton.*] You are not aware what sum is appropriated to the library?—I do not know the amount; I should think it would be something like 200 *l.* or 300 *l.* a year.

3027. *Chairman.*] Have great accessions been made to the library by means of donations?—Very great accessions; I should think that some of the most valuable books have been given by private individuals; a great many by persons living in the town, who feel a pride in the institution, and who often have books come into their hands, which they are glad to present to a public collection of that sort.

3028. Do not you think that if there was a similar depository of books in any town in our own country, private individuals would be very willing to contribute presents of books to such an institution?—I have no doubt of it; I know that in University College, in London, persons connected with it find pleasure in giving books to it; and no doubt it would be the same in country towns.

3029. Have many such accessions by donation or by bequest been made to University College library?—There have.

3030. You are a member of University College?—I was educated there.

3031. Is the library a very increasing one?—It has increased very much lately.

3032. Is it of great benefit to the students?—Of very great benefit.

3033. Have they free access to it?—They have; and on paying a small deposit, which is afterwards returned to them, they may take books home under certain stipulations.

3034. Do you think that that access to books has been of service to the students?—I think very much, in many respects.

3035. Mr. *Brotherton.*] If the privilege of having books out of the library were extended to the public, would it have a beneficial influence?—I fancy that among librarians generally there is a good deal of disinclination to have that privilege extended to the public. The students of University College are differently situated, because they, to a certain extent, are known to the librarian, and to those who have the management of the library.

3036. *Chairman.*] Is the library of University College sufficiently extensive to make it a complete public library; is it not a college library?—The range of topics is very general; the number of books is about equal to that of the Boulogne library.

3037. But you are not aware that the Council of University College have entertained the idea of making it a public library?—No, not that I am aware of; the room is a very convenient one; it is one large room.

3038. Have the Government contributed books to the Boulogne library?—They have contributed by donations of books in two ways. In the first place, of those great works which are published by the Government itself they generally give a copy; and then, secondly, there is a practice very general in France, by which the Government encourages the publication of works of an expensive and valuable character, by subscribing for a certain number of copies, and those are distributed among the public libraries in Paris and the provinces. In that way the Government has very often given very valuable works to the libraries—works which, with the limited amount of funds which they have at their disposal, they would not feel justified in buying.

3039. Is there a good catalogue or index of the books in the library of Boulogne?—There is a very good index, in which the books are arranged according to the subjects of which they treat; but a printed catalogue is now being published, which will be divided into two parts, one according to the range of subjects, the other according to the alphabetical list of authors. The first part, in several volumes, is already published.

3040. In that division of subjects, would you find any single tract, for instance, of Burke, separate from the rest of his works, arranged under the head of the subject?—Yes, in the first part.

3041. So that the works of every author are subdivided and arranged under the heads of the subjects of which they treat?—Yes; but in the last volume, there will be an index according to the authors' names, which will correct the defect which

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which otherwise would be experienced in referring to the catalogue; but that part I believe is not yet completed.

3042. How many books are there in the library at Boulogne?—In 1846, there were upwards of 26,000 printed volumes, besides manuscripts; but considerable accessions have been made since; M. Gérard estimates the number at present at about 30,000 volumes.

3043. Have they been very long in constructing this catalogue of the library at Boulogne?—The present catalogue for printing, has been in preparation about three to four years, and I believe it is near completion now.

3044. How many manuscripts are there?—I think there are between three and four hundred.

3045. Are they valuable?—Some very valuable.

3046. Of what nature?—Most of the manuscripts are old Prayer-books and missals of various descriptions; and there are several manuscripts connected with local history. There is one manuscript, the history of the Counts of Burgundy, which I believe is of considerable value.

3047. Then one of the objects of the provincial library of Boulogne, has been to extend information upon subjects of local history?—That is a point to which the present librarian has given particular attention, and in employing the funds at his disposal, he has tried to purchase manuscripts, or works having reference to the history of the town and the topography of the district.

3048. In fact, will not local history and the topography naturally flourish best in its native soil?—Yes; I have observed that the Boulogne library encourages a sort of feeling of local attachment, and a desire to elucidate local history.

3049. Do not you think that the same principle should extend also to museums; that they should be made the depositories, to as great an extent as possible, of all local curiosities, and every species of local illustration, both in natural history and in art, which exist in the country in which the museum is placed?—I should think so, because, if persons wished to refer to anything elucidating the history or the topography of the district, they would naturally go to any collection or any library existing in the district; that is, to a certain extent, the case with the museum at Boulogne, which contains a great number of Roman antiquities.

3050. Connected with that part of France?—Dug up in the neighbourhood.

3051. Have the works in the library been of service to the School of Design which exists at Boulogne?—That is a point upon which, perhaps, I can hardly speak; they have in the museum a very good collection of casts of the most remarkable pieces of sculpture, which, I believe, are of great use to the students.

3052. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Is there any sort of exhibition of manufactures in Boulogne?—There has been an exhibition of the manufactures of this district of France on two occasions, but I do not think they are in any way connected with the library.

3053. *Chairman.*] You have said that the library at Boulogne is open every day except Friday; are there any vacations in the course of the year?—There are vacations of a week or two occasionally, sometimes longer, when it is necessary for any repairs, or for any other purpose; but persons who have any particular object in wishing to visit the library, or strangers, upon showing their passport can go there when it is closed, on applying for an order to the librarian, at his own residence, which is just opposite the library.

3054. Mr. *Brotherton.*] In your opinion would it not be of great advantage if libraries established in different countries were to exchange their duplicate works?—I should think so, because I know that the library at Boulogne has derived great advantage by exchanges with the different libraries in Paris, and with other collections; and if it is advantageous carried so far, no doubt it would be if carried further.

3055. *Chairman.*] Are there many duplicates in the library at Boulogne?—I think there are a good many duplicates, but they do not allow them to accumulate to any great extent; they always exchange or sell them.

3056. Must it not be desirable to have duplicate or triplicate copies of works which are in great request?—I fancy that they are generally satisfied with having one edition of one work, unless other editions are published with considerable differences. If a subsequent edition of a work is published, in which any alterations are made, then they naturally would desire to have that.

3057. How many readers have you seen in the library at Boulogne at the same time?—I should think when I have been there, there have never been less than 15 or 20 people, and often more; on many occasions, particularly on Sunday afternoons, I have seen a great many more, some reading and some writing.

3058. To what class did they belong?—To all classes; I have often seen persons of the humbler class, but I think the greater number are persons of the middle class, or persons who have some object in studying; I have often seen persons in working dress.

3059. Do they appear to conduct themselves well there?—I have never seen anything but good conduct when I have been there; everybody has been as quiet as possible; the place has always been perfectly quiet.

3060. Do you think from your experience, that the details which you have given with reference to the Boulogne library, would be equally applicable to other provincial libraries in France?—I should think so; some of the provincial collections are more extensive, and some less so, but I fancy they are managed in the same manner to a great extent.

3061. Viscount *Ebrington*.] Have they several copies of books in great request, or is it their principle only to keep different editions of works where there is some considerable difference between the matter in the different editions?—I think it is generally their practice not to keep more than one edition of the same work, unless there is some considerable difference, so as to make it desirable to have more.

3062. In however great request that work may be?—Sometimes they keep more than one copy of the same edition of any work in great request.

3063. *Chairman*.] Must not it sometimes happen that very popular works like some of the modern Histories of France, may be demanded by more than one reader, and therefore will it not be desirable that there should be more than one copy?—Perhaps it would be desirable; but I think they seldom keep more than one copy of each work.

3064. Viscount *Ebrington*.] Have you ever considered the question, whether it might not be possible to establish a division in a public library, with a view to combine two different objects, the one a library of reference, the other a library of circulation, the one containing single copies only of almost all the works to which authors or literary men would be likely to wish to refer, the other containing several copies of the books mostly in request for home perusal by the general body of the readers?—I should imagine that the objects of such collections would be to a great extent different; I fancy that the library at Boulogne is rather a collection of the description first mentioned in the question, where every work likely to be referred to by literary men, at least every work of great importance can be found, and not a library where several copies are found, to accommodate general readers.

3065. It is obvious that different regulations and a different system would be applicable to those two different objects; have you ever considered whether it would be advantageous to effect that sort of division in a public library or to establish separate depôts of books on that principle?—It is a subject to which I have not given enough attention to be competent to answer it as fully as such a question ought to be answered.

3066. *Chairman*.] Have not many of the books in the Boulogne library been contributed by English residents there?—A great many of the books have been contributed by English residents, also by English people who have become acquainted with the town; some of the most generous contributors have been Englishmen.

3067. Mr. *Wyld*.] And the reason why English people have presented those donations has been on account of the facility of access they have enjoyed to the library?—Yes; the library is always open to English people as much as to French people; the librarian has always given every facility to English persons, whether reading for amusement or for the purposes of literature.

3068. *Chairman*.] Those contributions have sometimes been the result of gratitude on the part of English readers?—They have, very often.

3069. Do you know any library in England open to the public to the same extent, and affording the same facilities as the library of Boulogne?—I am not aware of any.

3070. Mr. *Wyld*.] You have seen people of the town, of the working classes, coming to the library there?—Very often.

3071. Have you ever heard any complaint of interruptions by that class to the other classes of readers?—Not at all; I have never seen anything but the most decorous conduct. In the museum, still more than in the library, I have noticed great numbers

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numbers of the working classes, great numbers of the fishermen and their families, especially on Sundays.

3072. Viscount *Ebrington.*] Have you heard whether any of the working classes have contributed curiosities which they have found to the museum?—I know that several sailors and fishermen have done so.

3073. Do they express an interest in the collection?—Very much so. I have seen, on Sundays, hundreds of fishermen and of the operative classes in the museum, to a much greater extent than in the library.

3074. *Chairman.*] Do you think that literary men in the provincial towns of England would derive great benefit from having access to such a library as that at Boulogne?—I should think so, certainly.

3075. And that if they have not an equal advantage in that respect they would feel the want of it, and that such want would be attended with detrimental results to the literature of the country?—I think the facilities given by the library at Boulogne would be found very useful, if they could be enjoyed in our great provincial towns.

3076. Viscount *Ebrington.*] Have you reason to believe that the circumstance of such a good and available library, existing at Boulogne, has proved a source of attraction to English or Foreign residents there?—I have no doubt it has. I know that in more than one instance parties have been inclined to reside there on that account. I know one English gentleman, a barrister, who sometimes used to reside there, used to spend the greater part of his time in the library.

3077. *Chairman.*] Was he induced to go to Boulogne, in consequence of the library?—Perhaps not to go there, but to remain there, when he was there.

3078. Viscount *Ebrington.*] You think that the existence of a library of that sort would be a great means of attraction to any town where it existed?—I have no doubt it would, more especially in watering places, where people have nothing to do all day; it would furnish most desirable occupation for part of the day.

3079. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Are there any other libraries in the neighbourhood of Boulogne, similar to that which is established there?—In the same department, there are, to my knowledge, two more; I think, three more libraries; though they are not so large as that of Boulogne, the one at Arras is very nearly as good; there is a small library at Calais, and, I believe, a small library at St. Omer.

3080. Are they supported in a similar way?—I believe very much in the same manner.

3081. Viscount *Ebrington.*] And you believe they are equally available?—Equally available; I am sure they are.

3082. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Do you conceive that they must have considerable influence upon society in that district?—I should imagine so.

3083. *Chairman.*] Are there any other facts which you can state to the Committee, respecting the library at Boulogne?—Not at present.

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3084. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are a civil engineer from Scotland?—I am.

3085. Have you had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the management of parochial and village libraries in Scotland?—I resided during all my youth in the north of Aberdeenshire, and had opportunities of seeing several parochial and village libraries there.

3086. How are such libraries organized in Scotland?—In the parishes, generally, some individual, either the clergyman or a landed proprietor, made a donation of 50 to a 100 volumes for the use of the parish, or some subscription is got up in the parish, raising a fund for effecting the purchase of 100 or 150 volumes; and one of the parishioners takes the management, and acts as librarian.

3087. Is he paid for that?—Generally not.

3088. Whence do they derive funds for the maintenance of the library?—There are no means of deriving any additional funds.

3089. Where do they keep the books?—Generally about the church or the school-house.

3090. Can you give the Committee any idea of the extent of those libraries?—They are neither numerous nor large; there being no means of giving them an increase, or of providing for their proper care, the enthusiasm for the thing generally falls off in the course of a few years.

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3091. To what do you attribute that loss of enthusiasm upon the subject?—I think the greater part of the books is soon read.

3092. Do you think that if there were better supplies of books, the disposition to read would be increased?—I have no doubt of it; I do not think that the classes who read, would be able to keep up a good library of themselves; but if they had a little assistance, I have no doubt that the enthusiasm would continue. If the principle of exchange from one parish to another were carried out, I think it possible that a very large number of books might be brought within the range of the reading public, at a very small expense.

3093. Have you heard of the system of itinerating libraries in the south of Scotland?—Yes; but I have seen no instance of it in the north.

3094. You think that system could be beneficially introduced in other parts?—I think it would be highly beneficial.

3095. From what you have stated, it appears that the parochial libraries which exist in Scotland are rather scanty in their number?—They are scanty, both in the number of libraries and in the number of books in each.

3096. But as far as they do extend you think they have done good?—Yes; the books are thoroughly read; they are worn out, almost, they are read so much.

3097. In the provinces of Scotland, would the people, from their education, be very well disposed to appreciate, and make use of such books, if they had them?—Yes; they are capable of reading well, and understanding pretty well what they read.

3098. Viscount *Ebrington.*] What class of books predominates in those libraries?—There are a good many travels, and a good many books of religious controversy; those are most sought after by the working classes in that part of Scotland.

3099. Do you speak of that taste for religious controversy as only a recent taste, caused by recent excitement on the subject, or do you believe it to be a taste of long standing and inherent in the people?—I speak of facts which occurred before the disruption in Scotland, therefore I think it is the general character of the people. I would mention, that in some of the smaller towns in Scotland there are libraries supported by voluntary contribution of considerably larger extent than those I have mentioned. At the town of Peterhead, which has a population of 6,000 people, there is a very handsome library, entirely supported by voluntary subscription, containing from time to time 2,000 or 3,000 volumes. The manner in which it is managed is this: books are purchased and are read, and then they are disposed of, and new ones purchased, partly out of the funds produced from the sale of the books already read, and partly from the contributions of members; the subscription, I think, is one guinea a year.

3100. *Chairman.*] Then they have no permanent collection of books?—They have 2,000 or 3,000 volumes.

3101. This library at Peterhead is only a subscription library, it is not accessible to everybody?—Only to subscribers.

3102. In the small number of village libraries which you have described in Scotland, is any parishioner allowed to read the books?—They are lent out.

3103. To every one, whether he contributes or not to the library?—There is no contribution required.

3104. Do not you think it would be well worth the while of landed proprietors to encourage the formation of such libraries, for the sake of improving the habits of the population?—I think it would be of the highest importance; but I have seen very few cases of that; I think that the feeling has rather been that they were raising the lower classes too high by giving them information, and that it is better to keep them without it.

3105. Do you think that that feeling has prevailed at all extensively in Scotland?—I think so, but not so much now.

3106. Mr. *Wyld.*] You say that you think there is an objection on the part of landed proprietors to the spread of information among the lower class; would that observation apply to the whole of Scotland?—I did not mean that there was any formal objection, but that there has been no inclination till lately to afford any high degree of education.

3107. *Chairman.*] You said that they did not wish them to advance too much in proportion to the upper classes?—I have seen that feeling manifested in that part of Scotland.

3108. Viscount *Ebrington*.] Do you think that that feeling is confined to the higher classes, or is it shared in by the middle classes in Scotland?—It is difficult to say.

3109. Do the farming class object?—Not at all.

3110. Why do the higher class object?—I did not say that they objected, but they showed a want of inclination to assist.

3111. *Chairman*.] Can you offer the Committee any suggestions with a view to improve the system of parochial or village libraries, which has prevailed in Scotland, to which you have adverted?—I think that if some means were provided of getting certain assistance for the working classes in the parishes in Scotland, they themselves would be ready with certain contributions; and if a system of exchange were adopted, so that one parish being provided with 100 volumes should transmit them to another, I think that by that means a large number of books would be provided at a small expense, and would be read.

3112. When you say "assistance," whence do you think that assistance should come?—The assistance might come from any central fund; I mean assistance from abroad, because the localities themselves are generally very poor. I should imagine that if in such towns as the county towns, if, for example, in Aberdeenshire, in the town of Aberdeen, there were a large library formed, and portions of it were transmitted throughout the parishes in regular order, so that they might be read, by some such means many books might be brought within the reach of the rural population, at a very small expense.

3113. You think that some system of itinerating libraries would be productive of great benefit?—I think so.

3114. Are you personally acquainted with any of the University libraries in Scotland?—I was a student at Aberdeen, and I had the means of knowing something regarding the libraries of the two colleges there.

3115. Are those libraries of great utility to the public?—I do not think they are. Marischal College library does not contain many books that would be read by the general public; King's College library is at some distance from the town, and is only open to members of the university.

3116. Are those libraries of great utility to the students?—Marischal College library is not open at all to the students in the general curriculum. The general students are considered too young to take care of the books; so much so, that in some of the classes, in one class especially, there used to be a small library of books on the subject of the class, and students subscribing half-a-crown a session were entitled to get books from it; a separate library from the college library.

3117. At what age do young men generally go to the colleges of Aberdeen?—They enter from 14 up to 22 or 23.

3118. Are you aware that boys of an earlier age attend the London University College?—I cannot compare it with the London University; I have seen boys of 12 or 13 at Marischal College.

3119. Do you know that they have access to the library of University College?—I am not aware of that.

3120. If the students of University College have access to the library of University College, do you see any reason why students of equal age in the University of Aberdeen should not have access to the library of the University of Aberdeen?—I see no reason whatever.

3121. Do the students contribute to the funds of the library?—Not directly; I believe that some portion of the fees, either on graduation or otherwise, go to the library.

3122. Is the library accessible in any degree to the public in Aberdeen?—All masters of arts or graduates of the college are entitled to get books from it on paying a small deposit.

3123. Do you think that the library might be made available to the public without diminishing its utility to members of the University?—I think so, because the parties to whom it is now useful are portions of the general public, namely, graduates of the college.

3124. You think that it might be made of use to the public without diminishing its usefulness to the members of the University?—Certainly.

3125. Viscount *Ebrington*.] Do not you think it would prove a great attraction to the town of Aberdeen, and that people would locate themselves there when they knew that the library of the University was accessible to the residents in general?

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general?—I do not think that the library in Marischal College would be any temptation, because there have been no accessions of any consequence for many years to it; they are mostly old books not generally read; in the other University, King's College, there is a more general library, which would be more read by the public if they had access to it; at King's College library, for many years, they had the benefit of the Copyright Act.

3126. *Chairman.*] Has either college now the benefit of the Copyright Act?—King's College has a fund in compensation.

3127. Does it lay out that fund in books?—The management of it has been much complained of by the public in Aberdeen; it is in the hands of the Professors.

3128. Do the Professors lay out the compensation-money in books?—They are supposed to do so.

3129. Do you see any objection to the public being allowed to read in those libraries?—No; indeed that is done in Aberdeen to this extent, that all members of the University can get out books and can lend them to their friends; it is only indirectly in that way, that they can get access to the library, but they do get access.

3130. But not access to read in the library itself?—There is no convenience for reading in the library.

3131. But indirectly they obtain books out of the library, through their friends, who have the privilege of borrowing books?—Yes.

3132. Does that extend to many persons in Aberdeen?—I imagine that no respectable person would find any great difficulty in getting access to a book.

3133. Viscount *Ebrington.*] Is that privilege extensively used?—Amongst the medical, divinity, and law-students, it is. There are a large class of students generally, in Aberdeen, who are pursuing their theological studies; they are private teachers and tutors in the mean time, and they use a great many of those books and hand them over to the pupils under them, for their use also.

3134. Do their friends in the town avail themselves extensively of this indirect privilege, which you say they have of getting books from the library, through members of the University?—Not extensively, I think.

3135. *Chairman.*] Do those means, on the part of the public, of supplying themselves with books, apply to King's College library only, or to Marischal College as well?—To both.

3136. Do not you think it reasonable that the public should have access to a library which receives grants from the public funds, whether it is the library of a University, or not?—I have no doubt that they should.

3137. Have the students of Marischal College access to the library of King's College?—Only in the indirect way I have mentioned, through friends connected with King's College.

3138. Do not the two libraries mutually participate in the common privilege of admission?—No, not at all; the fund which was given in compensation for the copyright provision entirely goes to King's College library, not at all to Marischal College, and that has been the occasion of a good deal of bad feeling between them.

3139. A student in Marischal College has not access to the library of King's College?—Not direct access.

3140. Have the students of King's College access to the library of Marischal College?—No direct access.

3141. Do not you think it is a great absurdity that two such libraries should exist near each other, and that there should not be mutual admission?—The two colleges being also separate universities, have certain jealousies between them, which always produce ill results in matters which are left to their own management; the way in which the fund given in compensation by the Copyright Act was given only to King's College, was by mistake; it was thought here, that there only was one university and two colleges, whereas in fact there are two separate universities, and that has been the occasion of a good deal of bad feeling between the two colleges regarding the library, because Marischal College considered that they were entitled to their share of the fund which they have not received.

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3142. Mr. *Wyld.*] Have you any means of knowing whether there have been any extensive additions to the library of King's College since that compensation-money was received?—I think, of late years, since there was demonstration of feeling in the town of Aberdeen regarding the application of the fund, considerable accessions have been made.

3143. Can you state what class of books have been added to the library?—Works of general literature and science.

3144. Have those universities any peculiar collections of manuscripts or works relating to Scottish history?—They have a few manuscripts, but very few.

3145. Was not Marischal College library very celebrated for its collection of old theological works?—There is a theological library attached to Marischal College, of small extent, which is reserved for the students in the theological class, and for those who have passed through that class.

3146. Does it not contain a very peculiar collection of theological works, relating to what is called the Geneva School of Theology?—I believe the theological library does, which is separate from the college library.

3147. *Chairman.*] Is much interest taken in the local libraries in Scotland by the people in the neighbourhood, for example, in such public libraries as those of Aberdeen?—I think the public do not take much interest in those, because they are purely university libraries, and restricted to the Universities.

3148. Would they, if they were more accessible to them, take more interest in them?—I think they would; but there are some extensive subscription libraries in Aberdeen; one of them contains, I believe, 10,000 or 15,000 volumes.

3149. You think that if the people of Aberdeen had access to the University library, they would appreciate such a privilege?—I have no doubt they would.

3150. Have any complaints been made in Aberdeen regarding the management of the libraries, as well as regarding the exclusion of the public from the libraries?—There has been considerable dissatisfaction regarding the application of the funds of King's College library.

3151. Can you offer any suggestions with a view to the removal of those complaints, and the establishment of a more satisfactory system?—I think the only way would be, to interest the public themselves in this matter, by giving them some share in the control, through the corporation of the town, or through any other channel; at present it is restricted, and kept in the hands of the University alone, and the public have not the interest and control which they are entitled to have.

3152. Do you think that, if there were such libraries accessible to the public, they should be open in the evening?—I think so, certainly; the evening is the only time in which the working classes can resort to such libraries.

3153. Mr. *Wyld.*] Does not that apply to the middle classes also?—Yes.

3154. Being occupied in business during the day, they are not able to avail themselves of the privilege of using a public library except in the evening?—Just so.

3155. *Chairman.*] Do you think that the practice of admission during evening should be extended to all public libraries?—I think it is very advantageous.

3156. Do you think that it should be extended to the British Museum?—Certainly; I have lived years in London, when I was studying my profession, and having no time to read during the day, I was entirely excluded from the advantages of the British Museum.

3157. It would be a great boon to gentlemen in your profession, and to others whose time is entirely occupied during the day, to have the means of resorting to the library of an evening?—I think so; I think with the present arrangements of the British Museum library, it is only accessible to persons who have all their time at command, or to students who are pursuing a particular branch of study, and devoting their time to it during the day.

3158. Have you ever heard any objection raised to the use of the library in the evening, on the ground of apprehended danger from fire, from the necessity of lighting the library?—I have heard it strongly objected to on the ground of danger from fire; but that danger may arise also from other sources, from the means of heating the place; and I think any great public library ought to be made thoroughly fire-proof.

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3159. Is the use of gas detrimental to the books of a library?—If it is burnt open in a library I consider it highly detrimental.

3160. Are there means of making it innocuous?—Yes, there are several means, either by lighting entirely from the outside through the windows, so as to keep the gas entirely out of the library, or by removing all the products from the combustion of the gas.

3161. You think that is attainable?—Quite attainable; I should prefer gas to any other method of lighting, from there being less danger attached to it.

3162. Do you think that the powerful light which is given by gas is advantageous to the reader?—I think the brighter the light is, the more advantageous and the less injurious to the eyes it is, provided you are not made to look at the light, but to look at the effect of the light upon the object.

3163. Your profession had led you to the observation of that particular effect?—It has; and besides I have had occasion for some years to be engaged in numerous experiments in lighting, more especially connected with this very building, the House of Commons.

3164. You have no doubt that in lighting a public library it would be easy to conduct away the component parts of the combustion, which would be injurious to the books?—I have no doubt of it, with any mode of lighting that ought to be done; I do not think that in any room there ought to be lights without conveying away the deleterious products of the combustion.

3165. Mr. *Thicknesse*.] What parts of gas are deleterious?—There is produced sulphurous acid; there is also carbonic acid with watery vapour, and that watery vapour lodging upon the binding of the books acts as a manure for that minute vegetation which we call mildew; the consequence is, that not only does the sulphurous acid discolour the books; but the damp and the carbonic acid act as a manure for producing this mildew, and so bringing on rot.

3166. Pure gas will not have those effects will it?—Pure gas will produce carbonic acid gas; it is impossible to get gas from coal without sulphuretted hydrogen.

3167. In saying that, do you include cannell as well as other coal?—There is a smaller portion from cannell coal.

3168. What gas would you recommend for lighting a public library?—I would recommend ordinary gas, consumed in good burners, removing the products.

3169. Can you remove the carbonic acid gas as well as the sulphurous acid? I would remove every product; it is done in the lights in the present House of Commons.

3170. You consider that it is the dampness producing the vegetation you have described which is destructive to the books?—It is the dampness; gas consists of hydrogen and carbon; in combustion it meets the oxygen of the atmosphere and it produces carbonic acid and vapour.

3171. Mr. *Wyld*.] That is the effect arising from its union with the atmosphere?—In combustion.

3172. By any system of gas-lighting would it be possible to get rid of that objection?—Yes, if the products are removed; the same applies to any other mode of lighting by combustion.

3173. *Chairman*.] The products are all carried off in the House of Commons?—Entirely.

3174. In what proportion do the component elements exist in combustion?—It varies very much with the quality of the gas; with very rich gas the quantity of carbon is very considerable, and the brighter the flame the greater quantity of carbon may be detected in it; according to the law of chemical equivalents a certain proportion of atmospheric air unites with a certain proportion of gas.

3175. Mr. *Thicknesse*.] Is the process of removing those injurious products of gas very expensive?—I think it is much cheaper than not removing it; you can get a brighter light by removing those products. There are various means of doing it, such as the different lights which have been patented lately, the Bude light and the Boccius light. In those cases the products are entirely removed; the brilliancy of the light depending upon the draught in removing those products.

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3176. *Chairman.*] In an old building could the system of lighting by gas, with the advantages of carrying off the products of combustion, be combined?—I have no doubt of it; I do not think there could be a case in which the thing could not be done; it is only necessary to provide a tube of proper length and of proper height connected with the gas-burner.

3177. If it has been stated in evidence that burning gas is injurious to the books, does not that objection arise rather from the misapplication of gas or a want of understanding the best method of using it?—Entirely from imperfect means. The same deleterious result of course applies to human beings, to the tenants of the library as well as to the books.

3178. Mr. *Wyld.*] It is your opinion that if a library is to be lighted it is not necessary for the proper preservation of the library that it should be lighted from the outside?—Not at all. It gives a fine light to light from the outside, and it removes, perhaps, one danger, namely, of an escape of gas when it is not burning; but, at the same time, it is much more expensive, on account of the distance at which it must be from the object to be illuminated.

3179. But it is quite practicable, at a very small expense, to render gas available for lighting a public library, and, at the same time, to remove all the injurious products?—Yes.

3180. At small expense?—At less expense than it can be lighted without it.

3181. *Chairman.*] Do you know the reading-room of the British Museum?—Yes.

3182. Do you consider that that room could be lighted with gas in the evening without any deleterious effects?—With perfect ease.

3183. Without danger of fire?—Certainly without danger of fire; but I think that a library, which is to serve as a depository for books for generations to come, like the British Museum, should be built only of incombustible materials; I think the introduction of wood, or of any combustible material, into such a library, quite wrong. The books themselves do not readily burn. I had lately occasion to burn about a hundred weight of manuscripts, and I found them very difficult to burn. The danger of combustion is entirely from the library itself internally, the shelves and the furniture.

3184. The modern part of the British Museum is fire-proof, is it not?—I do not consider it at all fire-proof.

3185. Are not the most recent additions which have been made to it fire-proof?—I think not; there are partitions separating it into different parts, but those have large doors passing through them, so that one chamber communicates entirely with another; the book-shelves are of wood, the furniture is of wood, and a great part of the floor is of wood; I would suggest that in such a library nothing whatever that is combustible should be used in the building or in the furniture.

3186. In the most recently added parts, have not precautions been taken to render the building fire-proof?—I am not aware that they have; I think the same objections apply to the newest part.

3187. Do you think that lending libraries would be of great advantage in large towns?—I think of the highest advantage.

3188. Do you think the British Museum might be used as a lending library?—With great advantage. I understand that there are a great number of duplicates in that library which might be rendered available to the public generally.

3189. Would you recommend that there should be a separate room for persons to read, distinct from the library?—Yes, it might be so organized; but I think a great distinction should always be made between a library that is a mere depository of books and a library which is one of circulation.

3190. Do not you think that the 50,000 or 60,000 duplicate copies of books in the British Museum might be very serviceable to the public if they were placed in a separate building, and made available for other parts of London at some distance from the British Museum?—I do not think that any advantage would result from placing them in a separate building, but I think they ought to be under separate control.

3191. You would still retain them in the British Museum?—It is very central.

3192. Is there room for another library there?—There is plenty of space.

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3193. You propose to make the duplicates into a lending library?—Yes.

3194. Have you had the means of observing whether the poorest classes of the population show much disposition to avail themselves of facilities for reading?—I have taken lately the superintendence of a Ragged School in the Marylebone district, and in connexion with that school we have established a small library and reading-room, and those that have attended have attended with great regularity, and read the books with the greatest quietness and attention; the room is open every evening but one in the week.

3195. How many frequent the room?—There have been 100 there; at this season, generally only 20 or 30.

3196. Of what age?—It is in the evening; those who attend in the evening are of the age of from 16 to 30 or 35.

3197. Do you throw it open to anybody?—To anybody, without restriction; generally those that attend the library are the same that attend the school.

3198. Is there a voluntary librarian?—The schoolmaster acts as librarian.

3199. Is the room sufficiently spacious for the accommodation of a large number of readers?—We have a room that can conveniently hold 150.

3200. Properly ventilated?—Roughly ventilated, but it is sufficient.

3201. Do the people appear to enjoy reading the books which they have there?—I think so; and if they had more books they would enjoy it still more.

3202. They do not go there for the mere object of passing the time, or having a comfortable place to sit down in?—It is possible that they may begin from that motive, but having begun, they get interested in the books, and they return to get books to read. Since the means of emigration have been provided for those classes, and many have gone from that school, the inclination amongst them for reading works which will give them information regarding the countries to which they intend to go has been very great.

3203. Do not you think that in any part of the country where there is a tendency towards emigration, and, indeed, wherever there are local libraries, it is very desirable to have those libraries supplied with books which give correct information upon the subject of emigration?—I think it is of the highest importance.

3204. Is it not likely that they will imbibe more knowledge from books which they take up themselves, provided those books are well chosen, than from any other source?—I think so. I may add that a great number of those same persons who frequent the Ragged School library had been in the habit of reading before, but they had read the bad cheap publications which are circulated in thousands among those classes. I may say, that among those classes there is perhaps a greater amount of reading than amongst the better classes in London, but it is reading of the worst description.

3205. You think that the institution of good libraries would withdraw the population, and especially the most dangerous part of the population, from bad reading, to which they at present apply themselves?—I think it would have that tendency, and not only withdraw them from worse reading, but from worse pursuits.

3206. You think it would improve their habits as well as their intellect?—Yes, most of those classes have no homes to go to, and no rational pursuits of any kind, and therefore they take to immoral pursuits.

3207. During what hours in the evenings do the persons whom you have described frequent the Ragged School library?—From seven to nine.

3208. Do women as well as men frequent the library?—Not this one; there is only one library established, and it is only open to men.

3209. How many books are there in the library?—I think there are not above 150 yet.

3210. Are donations of books freely made?—Not very freely; the donations have been mostly from members of the committee; very few from the public generally.

3211. How do the people conduct themselves in the reading-room?—With the greatest order and quietness.

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3212. Although they may be very humbly born, and very poorly clad?—Extremely so, and many of them persons who would, under any other circumstances, be most noisy and rude in their conduct.

3213. Have you known persons who apparently came with habits of disorder gradually reclaimed, in consequence of reading in the library, to habits of order?—I have known men of from 20 to 30 who, when they came, smoked their pipes in the school-room, overturned the forms and did all kinds of mischief, and now they are perfectly quiet and orderly, and they dress better; instead of rags, they come with whole clothes (though of the poorest kind still), and they sit down in the library with the greatest quietness and decorum, and read the books.

3214. Have you many pupils above the age of 20?—A great many; I have seen as many as 50 men, men having wives and families.

3215. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] You spoke of a bad description of books; are there many books of that kind published?—An immense number in London.

3216. *Chairman.*] Of what description are they?—Little books, perhaps selling at a half-penny each; many of them periodicals, containing horrible stories, with much of the marvellous and a good deal of the disgusting in them; one sort of books which seem to be sought for very much by that class are memoirs of notorious rogues, and extracts from the "Newgate Calendar," all of which, I think, have the very worst tendency; perhaps a worse tendency than books positively indecent or immoral.

3217. Are there many translations from foreign novels?—I am not aware of many; I think those are perused by a rather higher class.

3218. Are there many books connected with the principles of socialism?—There are a few, but I do not think many.

3219. Do you think that the institution of sound libraries is very desirable to lead them away from those various deviations from the proper path in point of reading to which you have adverted?—I think it is desirable in the highest degree; another great object is, that a library being provided, containing good books, is a temptation to many to learn to read, and afterwards to come and read; they see that their friends who come to the library evince the possession of information which they themselves do not possess, and they naturally feel anxious to read; they come to the school and learn to read, and then they frequent the library.

3220. Do you think that the system of itinerating libraries, which you have suggested might be adopted in the country, could be adopted in towns?—I think it should be adopted in such a city as London. There might be libraries itinerating from district to district in London. For instance, in certain districts in London, where there are now existing Ragged Schools, it would be a very great advantage if the library of one school were transmitted to another for a time, exchanging from the one to the other.

3221. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Do you consider the circulation of books of immoral tendency to be less or greater now than it was formerly?—It is very difficult for me answer that; I have only been observing it for two or three years; I have observed during those two or three years that the circulation of such books is very great.

3222. Mr. *Wyld.*] That circulation, probably, in part arises from the cheapness with which they are published?—Yes; and from the nature of their contents; they contain marvellous stories.

3223. If a better class of books were sold at the same price, do not you think they would supersede the bad books?—Perhaps, not at first; a taste for good works requires to be formed before they can be appreciated.

3224. Amongst the people whom you kindly take care of, do you find such works as the Penny Magazine to be much liked?—They are very fond of such works.

3225. And "Chambers' Journal"?—Yes.

3226. When they have read books of that class, they prefer them to the class of books you have spoken of?—Yes, so much so, that I do not think they would ever return to the lower class of books, after having read the other books.

3227. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Are not works of fiction generally the most attractive when people first begin to read?—I do not think they are more attractive than popular works of science.

3228. *Chairman.*] Have not those periodical writers who are the purveyors of material to suit the public taste in reading, found it expedient to supply them with more instructive and improving matter than formerly; and have not those weekly publications which have lately obtained so large a circulation, some of which are largely ornamented with cuts, shown a good tendency, rather than a bad one?—I think so; but I think they apply more to a superior class.

3229. The question refers to such publications as the "Family Herald;" do you know that?—Yes, I know it well.

3230. Has not that a most extensive circulation now, and is not it a most unexceptionable sort of periodical?—It is a most valuable periodical, but its circulation is not at all amongst the lowest class.

3231. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] Do you know "Eliza Cook's Journal"?—I have seen some numbers of it.

3232. *Chairman.*] Is not the circulation of the "Family Herald" 125,000 a week?—I have heard so.

3233. Does not the circulation of Eliza Cook's Journal, lately established, amount to 50,000 or 60,000 a week?—I think so; but still amongst a class rather above those that frequent the Ragged Schools. The class of books I allude to are short fictitious works; very short and very cheap ones, with illustrations attached to them, and often with rude verse attached to them.

3234. Do you know the works published by Lloyd?—Yes, I think they are rather superior to the class to which I allude.

3235. Mr. *Wyld.*] Do you allude to such works as "Reynolds' Mysteries of London"?—Yes, and abridgments of works of that description.

3236. Is it possible for the class amongst which you benevolently labour, to make a small subscription in aid of the funds for the library?—I am afraid they are too poor for that; we have to provide them almost with everything, in order to attract them to the school; we are not only obliged to make them pay nothing, but we are obliged occasionally to give them entertainment; a supper or a tea-party. At first, when the system was begun, they were very rude and unmannerly; but now they behave with the greatest courtesy, politeness and quietness.

3237. Do you think that a small subscription would cause a large number of your attendants to fall off?—I think so, if the subscription were made compulsory.

3238. *Chairman.*] The persons you describe are not in regular employment?—Not at all; many of them are persons selling things in the street.

3239. Are the persons whom we meet in the streets selling every description of articles, pencils, pens and so forth, the sort of persons who belong to the Ragged Schools?—They are rather the class you meet in the street selling vegetables, oranges, and such things as those.

3240. Women as well as men?—There are portions of these schools appropriated to women, and a large number attend. My opinion is, that in all these cases, so far from making them pay anything, we ought to do everything to attract them at first; draw them to the school, and then instruct them afterwards.

3241. You have bestowed some attention on the subject of lighting public libraries; have you also turned your attention to the construction of public libraries?—Merely as matter of research and curiosity in my profession; Mr. Edwards, who has been examined by the Committee, was a near neighbour of mine for years, and we have often studied the thing together; I have made several drawings in communication with him, considering the subject as to the construction and arrangement.

3242. Can you give the Committee any notion what the estimate for a fair public library would be for a country town?—It must depend very much upon its extent.

3243. Take a town that has a population of 10,000 inhabitants?—I should say that for the mere building and shelving to hold the books, for 1,000 *l.* a very good building might be put up in a country district.

3244. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] What do you include in that?—Plenty of room for books,

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books, and also accommodation for reading. The only thing from which I can draw any analogy is the cost of churches, which I have seen built in Scotland, in country districts, capable of containing a congregation of 1,200, well built and well seated for 1,000 *l.*

3245. Upon that basis you calculate that for 1,000 *l.* you might build a public library to accommodate a population of 10,000 people?—I think 20,000 or more, if the construction were carefully studied with a view to economy and simplicity. It may be assumed, without material error, that a square foot of wall surface can accommodate 10 average volumes, allowing for shelving and fittings; a tier of shelves may extend 6 feet 6 inches in height without requiring a ladder to reach the upper shelves; 1 foot 6 inches may be left vacant below to avoid stooping; and, in the case of successive tiers, 1 foot in height may be allowed for galleries and their fittings; so that each tier would occupy in all 7 feet 6 inches in height, 5 feet of that being available for books. A room, 50 feet square and 30 feet high, lighted entirely from above so that all the wall surface may be available for shelving, might be fitted with three galleries entirely surrounding the interior, so as to provide four tiers of convenient shelving. The total surface for book accommodation would thus be 4,000 square feet, which would contain 40,000 volumes, without any projecting-presses or partitions. Access might be given to the galleries by staircases at the angles of the room; further, a width of 5 feet railed off around the room would be a passage for the service of the library, and a central area of 40 feet square would be left for a reading-room, capable of accommodating 100 readers with space for passages, tables and catalogues, allowing 16 square feet to each reader. I have little doubt that such a room with all its fittings, and with some additional accommodation for the servants of the library, could be plainly constructed in the country for 1,000 *l.* or 1,200 *l.* And I imagine that an arrangement, like that which I have briefly indicated, would, in point of appearance, be in no way objectionable; for, while it is extremely simple and capable of being decorated, it would, I think, have a better effect than such a disposition of the shelves in separate chambers, or in presses projecting from the walls, as necessarily conceals more than half of the books from any single point of view. The warming, lighting and ventilation, and even the fire-proofing of such a room might be simply and economically effected.

3246. Would that be upon the fire-proof principle?—I am afraid not; that would come to more money; but I think that with proper arrangements in the original construction, the fire-proofing would not add very materially to the expense.

3247. *Chairman.*] Have you ever turned your attention to a plan which has been noticed in the Westminster Review, of Mr. Pickett's, for buildings made of iron?—I have; I do not see any advantage in making the building of iron, but I think the furniture might be made of iron, and the shelving might be made of iron with great advantage.

3248. Would that be more expensive?—It would be more expensive in the first instance than wood, but it would soon repay itself by freedom from danger, and by saving the cost of repair.

3249. You think there would be greater freedom from the danger of fire?—By having iron shelving, there would be no danger of fire whatever.

Martis, *5° die Junii*, 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Mackinnon.
Mr. Kershaw.
Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Monckton Milnes.
Viscount Ebrington.
Mr. Thicknesse.
Sir Harry Verney.
Mr. Bunbury.
Sir John Walsh.

WILLIAM EWART, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Simon Waley Waley, Esq. called in; and further Examined.

S. W. Waley, Esq.

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3250. *Chairman.*] ARE you able to add anything to the evidence you gave to the Committee on the 24th of May?—Since I gave that evidence I have received two letters and several documents from Monsieur Gérard, the librarian of the Boulogne Library, which enable me to correct some points in my former evidence, and to add some further details.

3251. Can you inform the Committee whether there is any complete collection of the French law relative to public libraries?—The French law on public libraries is found scattered amongst the various laws published since 1789. Many of those laws were made for special circumstances, and there is no general collection of them; but a good analysis of these laws can be found in the Jurisprudence Générale du Royaume, par Dalloz ainé et Armand Dalloz, new edition, in quarto, vol. 3, at the word "Bibliothèques Publiques." This work is still in course of publication, is well known, and is no doubt in the British Museum.

3252. By what law are the libraries regulated in France now?—By a law published on the 26th of February 1839. The 1st and 2d sections of the law relate to the libraries at Paris. The 3d section relates to libraries in the departments. Its principal dispositions are as follows: Catalogues are to be made of all libraries to which government contributes by gifts of books; all these catalogues are to be kept at the ministry of public instruction, and communicated to the public whom they may interest. The minister of public instruction is to see that a committee is appointed in each town where there is a library, presided over by the mayor, to regulate the management, and to send every autumn a list of all new works acquired during the year, to the ministry of public instruction. No books belonging to such public collections can be sold, nor can exchanges be made unless ordered by the mayor of the town, and approved of by the minister. It then stipulates that for each library there shall be one librarian and one or more sub-librarians, and that the librarian is to be appointed by the minister of instruction; and finally, that copies of all rules and regulations for the management of libraries are to be sent to the minister of public instruction, and left with him.

3253. Is the librarian now named by the minister of public instruction?—It appears that the article of this law which gave the nomination of librarians to the minister of public instruction has been complained of, and it has since been modified, and now the nomination rests with the mayor, where the library is exclusively the property of the town, and maintained at the expense of the town.

3254. Then the mayor has the nomination of the librarian?—Yes.

3255. Can you give the Committee the rules and regulations of the library at Boulogne?—I have them in my hand. The most remarkable points of them are as follows: The hours of admission are from ten till four every day but Friday; and there are two ordinary vacations of a week, beginning on Easter Monday and on the 1st of October. The other principal points of the regulations are as follows: That silence is to be observed in the library; that no person is to get a book for himself, but that the librarian or sub-librarian must be asked for it; that people are always to remain in the large room and work there, even when the books which they have come from other rooms. This rule has been adopted for security, as the librarian or sub-librarian always sits there; but it appears from my former evidence that it is not strictly carried out

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out where persons are known to the librarian. That in the winter nobody is to sit round the fire reading; that when parties have finished reading the books that they have asked for, they are to return them to the librarian or sub-librarian before they leave; that engravings, maps, and manuscripts are only to be given to persons known or introduced to the librarian; that when copies or extracts are made, the paper is not to be placed on the book or manuscript; that persons reading are to be responsible for any mischief they may do; that the catalogue is to be shown to all who wish to see it; that no books may be taken out except under the following circumstances: either by the directors of the museum for the purposes of that institution, or by the chairman of the agricultural society, or by professors at the college and persons occupied in literary or scientific pursuits, if approved of by two members of the committee of management and by the mayor. In these cases books can only be taken out for a month; when taken a receipt must be given for them, which contains a promise to pay for them if not returned in the same state as when taken. Children under 12 years old are only admitted with their parents.

3256. That is an exact translation of the existing rules of the Boulogne library?—That is an exact abstract of the rules as they exist at present.

3257. Can you give the Committee any information corrective or illustrative of the evidence which you gave when you were last before the Committee?—Monsieur Gérard has sent me very full information on almost every point to which I alluded in my former evidence; I will only refer to such points of his information as either differ from what I stated, or as are more detailed. Monsieur Gérard states that about 25 persons generally read in the course of the day. Referring to the catalogue, he tells me that the descriptive catalogue of manuscripts and the methodical catalogue of printed books are published; but that the alphabetical catalogue of printed books according to the author's names, has not yet gone through the press. He states that the plan adopted for the catalogues is different in different libraries; that it depends to a great extent on the feeling of the librarian what form shall be selected for the catalogue. He mentions that the committee of management determine what books are to be purchased, bound, &c. each year, on his report, so that on these points the management of the library really rests with the librarian. He estimates the ordinary expenditure of the library at 163 *l.* a year, as follows: Librarian's salary 60 *l.*; sub-librarian's salary 30 *l.*; purchase and binding of books 61 *l.*; firing, light, and repairs, 12 *l.* That comes to 163 *l.* altogether. But I have in my hand a statement of the exact expenditure for the five years from 1844 to 1848, and the estimated expenditure for 1849; which is as follows:—

AN ACCOUNT of the average ordinary Expenditure, the actual Expenditure during the years 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, and 1848, and the Estimated Expenditure for 1849, of the Public Library at *Boulogne*.

—	1844.	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.	Average.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Librarian's salary - -	60	60	60	60	60	61	60
Sub-librarian's ditto - -	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Purchase and binding of books, &c. - - -	53	53	61	61	61	40	61
Repairs, firing, lights, &c.	20	20	12	12	12	12	12
Cost of new book cases -	48	24	—				
Purchases of periodical works, to complete series	- -	12	12	12	12		
Printing the catalogue, paid printer on account -	- -	40	- -	2	—		
Extra credit for purchase of new books - -	- -	24	—				
Extra credit for binding -	- -	- -	- -	- -	20	—	
Cost of a new flooring -	- -	- -	- -	9	—		
Ditto three closets -	- -	- -	- -	22	—		
Sundry expenses - -	- -	12	—				
TOTAL - - £.	211	275	175	208	195	143	163

Monsieur

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Monsieur Gérard states that these expenses may be taken as a fair estimate of the general expense of provincial libraries in France; that though the expenses may be greater at Rouen, Bordeaux, or Lyons, he does not think that they are so at Lille, although it is a town of more than 100,000 inhabitants. It is obvious that the salary paid to the librarian is not sufficient to command the whole time of a person of the ability that the librarian ought to possess; but the whole of his time is not required, and the situation is, to a certain extent, considered an honourable one which persons are desirous of filling.

3258. Is the sub-librarian's salary considered sufficient?—I should think it was, because it is not considered necessary he should be a person of any very great ability. He has rather to attend to the books, to see that they are dusted and properly kept.

3259. He is a mere mechanical attendant?—Yes.

3260. You stated in your former evidence that evening sittings had once been allowed in the library of Boulogne: why were they abandoned?—It appears that they were abandoned for several reasons. The principal was that very few persons attended the library in the evening, and also that there was some fear of fire, and there was extra expense to the town. Monsieur Gérard considers evening sittings necessary in university towns where students are occupied with their lectures all day, but not otherwise; persons who generally work in libraries usually have the command of their time during the day. He states that workmen very seldom read after their day's work when the library was open in the evening. On Sundays and holidays the working classes go to read in the library, but very seldom on week days.

3261. Has the library suffered much from thefts?—Monsieur Gérard states on this point, that the library has suffered very little indeed from thefts, and that no argument can be founded on their having lost books, in any way to invalidate the principle they have adopted of giving to the public the utmost freedom of access to the collection.

3262. What precautions are taken against the loss of books?—The following precautions are taken at the Boulogne library; which Monsieur Gérard considers, together with the vigilant attention of the librarian and sub-librarian, to be sufficient in most cases. In the first place, all the books are kept in cases, which can only be opened by the librarian or sub-librarian, with wire doors; and no person can get a book for himself, but must ask for it: and the name of the library is stamped on the title-page and in several parts of every work that they have.

Charles Richard Weld, Esq., called in; and Examined.

C. R. Weld, Esq.

3263. *Chairman.*] YOU are Librarian to the Royal Society?—I am.

3264. What is the number of volumes in the library of the Royal Society?—Between 43,000 and 44,000.

3265. The public, of course, are not admissible to that library?—Not generally; but in no case is an individual refused access to a book.

3266. Even without a recommendation?—Without a recommendation; I take upon myself in all cases to show any person applying, a book; liberty being given me by the council to that effect.

3267. They leave it to your discretion?—Yes.

3268. Are the books lent out?—They are lent out to fellows.

3269. Are they largely lent out?—Yes.

3270. Can you state at all to what extent?—About 100 volumes weekly.

3271. Have any cases occurred of books lent out in that way being lost?—During my librarianship, now extending over six years, not a single book has been lost.

3272. How many fellows are there of the Royal Society?—Seven hundred and thirty.

3273. What means do you take of ensuring the return of the books?—We require a signature for every book lent out.

3274. Have you a good catalogue?—A very good catalogue.

3275. Do you purchase many new books?—The grant for this purpose is 250 *l.* a year, which is nearly all expended; but independently of that, we have a great number of presents made to us.

3276. Do you think that if public libraries existed in the country generally, they would be very much added to by donations?—I do.

3277. You give that opinion on the faith of your experience as librarian of the Royal Society?—Yes.

3278. How do you keep up your catalogue?—Books coming in one week are invariably added the next week to the catalogue, so that the catalogue is never more than 10 days behind.

3279. Do you consider that the additions to your catalogue are made more rapidly than those at the British Museum?—Decidedly so.

3280. Would a fellow of the Royal Society find immediately in your library such a book as Mr. Macaulay's History of England?—Undoubtedly; indeed I may mention, with respect to that question, that many officers of the British Museum apply to us for books that they cannot get at the British Museum.

3281. Why cannot they get them at the British Museum?—That I cannot answer, but they are not in the catalogue. A very curious instance occurred lately: the Athenæum, a journal well known, was asked for by an officer of the British Museum, who was unable to get it at the Museum.

3282. Perhaps they do not take in the Athenæum at the British Museum?—They are bound to have it; it is a published book, and it must be sent to the British Museum.

3283. You merely mention the fact, but you can give no explanation of it?—I apprehend that the journal I mentioned was not entered in the catalogue at the time it was asked for at the British Museum.

3284. It was entered in your catalogue?—Yes.

3285. And all such works would be at once entered in your catalogue?—At once.

3286. Is it that the British Museum has so vast a machinery that it cannot act with the same rapidity that you do?—I think not; because when I was in Germany the year before last, I made particular inquiries respecting the library at Munich where I resided for some time, and I found that that immense library is managed by nine persons.

3287. What is the size of that library?—I consider that the Royal Munich Library, including manuscripts and duplicates, possesses nearly 800,000 volumes; say in round numbers 800,000; and that library has but these officers: one chief librarian, one under ditto, three assistants, three secretaries, and one writer, or as we should call him, clerk: whereas the British Museum in 1848, with 425,000 volumes, has a staff of 27 officers and 31 servants, according to the published accounts in 1848.

3288. Does not that staff refer to the whole of the Museum, and not exclusively to the library?—I allude merely to the library.

3289. Do you mean that the library has that staff?—Yes.

3290. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Have you any calculation as to the number of readers at the library at Munich, as compared with the number attending the British Museum?—I have not of the readers, but I find these figures in my notes; that out of 800,000 volumes, 80,000 are used annually at Munich.

3291. *Chairman.*] Do you know how many are used annually at the British Museum?—No, I do not.

3292. Viscount *Ebrington.*] Are you aware whether those nine persons found the catalogue of the library at Munich in good order, or whether a great number were employed to bring it up to its present efficient condition?—The number, as I was informed, was always the same, and the nine persons whom I found there were labouring under very serious difficulties, because the library had just been removed to the very superb building in the Ludwig Strasse, appropriated to its reception; but they were able to keep it up with that limited number; and I confess few things have astonished me so much as the smooth and beautiful working of the machinery of that library with so slender a staff.

3293. Mr. *Milnes.*] Is there a printed catalogue of the Munich library?—No, not of the entire. The catalogue consists of a series of manuscript volumes which are deposited in cases, and most easy of access. What renders the catalogue of great value to the readers in the library is this, that the new books are entered immediately; I should say within a month certainly.

3294. Do you know how the new books are supplied to the library?—There is a large grant.

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3295. *Chairman.*] They are entered much more rapidly at the Munich Library than at the British Museum?—Yes; in some researches that I made with reference to our society, I was able to get books very shortly after they had been published. I was there in the autumn; the books which I required had been published in the previous spring, and I obtained those books at Munich; not being disappointed in a single case.

Edward Edwards, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

E. Edwards, Esq.

3296. *Chairman.*] ARE you aware that complaints have been made that the readers of the British Museum do not find there books which have been recently published?—Yes; and I believe they are very well grounded.

3297. Do you happen to recollect a letter in the "Times" from a reader in the British Museum, three or four months ago, who stated that he could not be supplied with such a book as Mr. Macaulay's History of England?—I did not see the letter, but I heard it spoken of.

3298. Mr. *Milnes.*] By what process would Mr. Macaulay's History find itself in the British Museum?—It would be received from the publisher, in virtue of the Copyright Act. The publisher is bound to deliver it within a short period; I think within a calendar month after publication, under penalty of a fine.

3299. Are you sure that the period is not six months?—It was altered by the recent Act; the old term was six months, but my impression is that it was altered by Mr. Talfourd's Act; at any rate the books do practically come very frequently within a month or six weeks. By the 6th clause of that Act (5 & 6 Vict., c. 45) it is enacted, that "within one calendar month after the day on which any book shall first be sold, published, or offered for sale within the bills of mortality," a copy shall be delivered by the publisher at the British Museum; or "within three calendar months if the same shall first be sold, published, or offered for sale in any other part of the United Kingdom."

3300. Are any books delivered at the British Museum till they are bound?—Many of the books under the Copyright Act come bound, or in that state in which it is usual to deliver them to the reading room; many books are sent in cloth binding, and that would last, perhaps, two years.

3301. At the British Museum do you consider books bound in cloth as bound books?—No; we should not consider them bound, but we should place them on the shelves, and should not send them to the binder till the cloth binding had been worn.

3302. Is it the habit that books which come in cloth binding are delivered to the reading room without going through any other process of binding?—I think so; I have myself when a reader had books frequently in that state; and I have frequently seen them in cloth binding of late, in the reading room.

3303. Do you happen to be aware whether the demand in the reading room is considerable for such recent works as that of Mr. Macaulay?—I do know that there has been often great disappointment on the part of readers at not being able to get books of that kind of recent date.

3304. *Chairman.*] Is it meant that they cannot get books of that kind at all of a recent date, or that there is such a demand for them that there are not a sufficient number of copies to meet the wants of the readers?—No; the difficulty is solely a difficulty of pounds, shillings, and pence. The real blame rests, not with the Museum authorities, but with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The simple fact is, that there is no sort of restriction upon the sending of the newest books into the reading room, but there is a restriction that calls upon every reader to find the books that he demands in the catalogue; and I am afraid that many books published even three or four years ago, would not be found in the catalogue at present. But that has arisen solely from the want of a sufficient staff of transcribers, and that want has arisen from the insufficiency of the Parliamentary grants. I know that representations have been repeatedly made by the Museum officers of the necessity of more transcribers, in order to bring the catalogue into such a state as to satisfy the reasonable demands of the readers. But those requirements have not been complied with; the transcribers have hitherto been greatly too few for the work which they have had to do; but now a vigorous effort is being made to bring the catalogue up to the present condition of the library.

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3305. Did not you hear it stated by the last witness that the staff of the British Museum very far exceeded that of the great library at Munich, and yet that you cannot find the new books in the catalogue?—The large amount of the staff in the library of the British Museum arises from a new catalogue being made of the whole collection. The main exertions of the department have been directed of late years to the production of a new catalogue embodying all the previous catalogues of different collections, but there has been till very lately only a very small number of transcribers to bring up the catalogue of new books for the reading rooms.

3306. Mr. *Milnes.*] Do you wish the Committee to understand that it having been thought by the trustees of the Museum to be absolutely necessary for the public utility of the library that there should be formed one perfect homogeneous catalogue, those intentions have not been seconded by the Government with the energy which might have been desirable?—I think not. I know that for some years past representations have been made of the necessity of an increased grant for such matters as those to which the question refers, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer has compelled the trustees to modify the estimates which at first were sent in, and I believe that such modification has had a great deal to do with the existence of complaints such as those to which the Chairman has referred.

3307. Are the Committee to understand you to state, from your experience of the library at the Museum, that that great collection will not be brought usefully and practically within the sphere of the public until a catalogue more or less perfect in its nature is completed?—I believe that nothing else than a complete and printed catalogue will at all answer the proper service of the library, or satisfy the reasonable demands of those who frequent it.

3308. Mr. *Thicknesse.*] How many transcribers have been engaged in entering the new books?—I believe that the present number is 12, but for a long period, till within a few weeks indeed, the number of persons employed in transcribing new titles for the catalogue was only three or four.

3309. How many new titles are there to be transcribed in a day, upon the average?—That is a difficult question to answer, save by approximation. Last year the number of distinct works added to the library was 20,909, which would probably yield somewhat more than 35,000 new titles, including "cross-references," for entry in each of two copies of the catalogue; or about 230 entries *per diem*. But in the preceding year, the number of separate or distinct works added to the library was 37,685, which would probably yield about 66,000 titles for double entry, or 427 entries *per diem*. The growth of the library has been lately very great indeed; even in the new books published in Great Britain there is an increase, but the great bulk of the increase has arisen from the importation of foreign works to a very large extent. I may add, that I was examined on this subject by the Commissioners who are now sitting to inquire into the management of the Museum; and I stated, what I will venture to repeat to the Committee, that I think, as a provisional measure, much might be done to lessen the complaints of readers with respect to the accessibility of new works, if some line of demarcation were drawn between new accessions and what may be termed old accessions to the Museum; that is to say, if, instead of proceeding indiscriminately with the great bulk of unentered titles every year, comprising a great many books brought in from abroad, however old their date, along with the newest works, the titles of new works were kept apart and entered up first, allowing the great accumulation of titles of old works to be entered up afterwards, I think that at least one class of complaints, and those not unreasonable ones, would be very much lessened.

3310. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Besides the complaints relative to new works, is there not also reason for complaints that old works which are newly acquired in the library are not readily accessible to readers; are not there, in fact, many old works in the British Museum to which readers have no power of access?—The same remark as to the necessity of a strong staff of transcribers, in order to keep up the catalogues for the use of the readers, will apply to both classes of works; but I think that, practically, readers do not so much complain of the inaccessibility of old works as they do of new works, which are better known; it of course takes some time before accessions of old works are generally and popularly known; but the readers know about new English and new foreign books,

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books, and naturally look for them more quickly than they do for the old class of books.

3311. Take any particular class of books, such as Italian topography, in which the Museum has lately obtained considerable accessions; supposing a person desirous of information upon that subject were to come to the Museum and say, "I have heard that you have great accessions in this department," would he find those accessions entered in the catalogue?—He would not find them at present, and I am afraid that purchases of two or three years back would be in the same position; but that has resulted, not from any disinclination on the part of the trustees or officers of the Museum to give the fullest access to the collections, but simply from the fact that their resources have been limited, and that they have not had the means of bringing the catalogues up to the state in which they were desirous to see them.

3312. *Chairman.*] Do not you think it is of great importance to the public that they should be able to obtain access to works which have been published within the last two or three years?—I think so; I think it is most reasonable that complaints should be made of the absence from the catalogue of new English books, because those works come to the library by a tax upon a portion of the public.

3313. Mr. *Milnes.*] As by the law of copyright only one copy of each work is deposited in the British Museum, and it is not the habit of the British Museum in any case to buy duplicates, would it be possible for new popular works, such as Mr. Macaulay's History of England, to be usefully given to the reading room when only one copy could be supplied for the whole room?—I think that a reader would be better satisfied if, when he found that he could not get a book, he were told that the reason why he could not get it was because some other reader was using it, than he would be, if he found that no person whatever could get it in the reading room.

3314. Do you not think that such an establishment as that of the British Museum, regarded as a great depository of our national literature, ought rather to be used for works of research, and comparison, and literary investigation, than for the purposes of a common reading-room, for obtaining books which can be got from any circulating library for 2*d.* or 6*d.*?—I should think certainly the object suggested in the question is by far the most important one; but I think the other object ought also not to be neglected, and that new books of an historical kind, for example, ought to be in the British Museum, and to be at the service of readers who may not find it convenient to pay even a small sum to read them. I think that is one of the objects of a great national library, and ought to be kept in view, although not at the expense of other objects, but concurrently with them.

3315. In your experience of foreign libraries, has any case of any one library come under your observation where a great public library had been made a reading-room for the perusal of new publications?—I believe that on the Continent it is the general practice to make a distinction between reading for the purpose of research, which may however often involve access to the newest books, and reading for mere amusement; and I entirely agree in the propriety of that distinction. I do not think that the reading-room of the Museum ought to be a place for loungers to amuse themselves by turning over new books; but it is quite possible that persons having studious pursuits may need to get access to new books at the Museum, and they ought to get them there; supposing always their object is not mere amusement, but some literary pursuit.

3316. Do not you think that both objects would be best accomplished by regarding the British Museum primarily as a depository for national literature, and as a place for research and study, and combining with that institution the establishment of distinct and accessible libraries for the public in other places and under other circumstances?—I most entirely think so, and I hope that the labours of this Committee will result in the creation of such additional libraries, and then I think the question with respect to new books would stand upon a wholly different footing, as far as the Museum is concerned.

3317. *Chairman.*] A reader who wanted to apply for a more recondite book than such a book as Mr. Macaulay's History, if that book were only recently published, would not be able to obtain that book?—I think not, in the present state of the catalogue; but efforts are making to put the establishment in a better condition in that respect.

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3318. Viscount *Ebrington.*] When you speak of wanting a better staff to carry on the catalogue, is not that merely in consequence of the accumulation of books not yet catalogued; and supposing the catalogue were completed up to any particular date, would there then be any difficulty in carrying on the catalogue afterwards?—At the present rate of accessions of books, it would require a large staff to keep it up, but it would be a manageable thing.

3319. You would recommend making a fresh start (leaving the arrears of accumulation to be dealt with separately), beginning from a day fixed, and keeping up the catalogue of the new books as they come in *de die in diem*?—I would do so, so long as the library of the British Museum is the only accessible library of magnitude in London; if there were other public libraries accessible, the matter would, in some respects, stand upon a different footing.

3320. You would recommend that upon the ground that books of various classes coming under the head of new books, are essential for research and study, and are as likely to be wanted at any particular moment as books of lighter literature?—Precisely so.

3321. They may be quite as indispensable to students as books of more ancient date?—Very often; very often a reader having most serious objects of study, may need to have recourse to books of light literature in prosecuting his purpose.

3322. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Have you any reason to believe that the want of a sufficient catalogue has a tendency to discourage donations of books, and that persons who would have given books to the Museum have been deterred from doing so, because from the want of a catalogue, it would be a considerable time before those books would be available?—I think if the state of arrear were to continue that result would follow.

3323. *Chairman.*] What do you consider the average time at which a book is entered after its reception into the British Museum?—I fear that many books have been three years in the Museum before they have found their way into the public catalogue.

3324. In your former evidence you stated your belief that the great majority of the continental libraries are quite unrestrictedly open to the public, as far as regards admission to read in them. Are you still of opinion that such a statement is generally applicable to the libraries of Germany?—I am still entirely of that opinion. I have lately looked more closely into the textual regulations of many of the German libraries, and I will supply the Committee with some extracts which will prove, I think, that I am right in my statement that, as a general rule, the German libraries are quite freely accessible to the public. I will first of all state, generally, that the great majority of the regulations of the German libraries are prefaced by what I think to be a most reasonable distinction; that they are to be used not for the purposes of mere reading for amusement, but to carry out some serious study: I think that a most legitimate distinction to be drawn. Other than that, I find in very few instances any kind of restriction whatever. Taking a few of the German libraries in alphabetical order, I find the regulations of the Bamberg Library to be as follows: "Every visitor to the public library must present himself to the librarian, or in his absence to the secretary, and acquaint him with the object of his visit." And then it goes on to say that he shall without any other formality receive the books that he requires *. The regulations of the Royal Library of Berlin state that "Whoever desires to make use of books or musical works in the Royal Library must present himself personally to the officers appointed for that purpose, from whom he will receive a card, on production of which his demands will be attended to †." At Bonn the regulations of the University Library state, "Whoever

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* *Bamberg Public Library.*—"Jeder Besucher der öffentlichen Bibliothek hat sich dem Bibliothekar oder in dessen Abwesenheit dem Secretair vorzustellen, und diesem nach der Absicht des Besuches seinen Wunsch zu erkennen zu geben," &c.—*Ordnung für die öffentliche Bibliothek zu Bamberg* (1842).

† *Berlin Royal Library.*—"Wer in der Königlichen Bibliothek Bücher oder Musikalien zu benutzen wünscht, hat sich bei dem damit beauftragten Beamten persönlich zu melden, und empfängt eine Karte, gegen deren Vorzeigung ihm das Begehrte verabfolgt wird."—*Bibliothek-Ordnung, &c.*, I. s. 6.

ever desires to read in the library must in the first place apprise the proper officer in the reading room of his name and profession."

3325. Whether he is a student in the University or not?—I think so: "And must then write the titles of the books he may require upon a ticket signed with his name and address; whereupon the books, if at hand, will be brought to him in the reading room[*]." The same regulations apply to the University Library of Breslau. The regulations of the Royal Library of Dresden say, "Every person desirous of reading in the library shall have placed before him in the reading room all the books he may require, without any exception whatever, during the hours allotted for that purpose; but admission to the library itself cannot be allowed unless the party be accompanied by the proper functionary[†]." The regulations of the University Library of Giessen say, "Whoever desires to use the books of this library, either to read or refer to, or to make pencil extracts therefrom, must apprise the proper officer of the library stationed in the reading room, of his name and profession, and must then write the titles of the books he may require upon a slip signed with his name and address; whereupon the books, if at hand, will be brought to him in the reading room[‡]." The regulations of the University Library of Halle say, "Whoever desires merely to read in the library must go to the reading room and refer to the catalogue kept there, in order to ascertain if the book he requires be in the library; writing in pencil upon a ticket the title, if he have found it, together with the reference, number, and size of the volume; which ticket he will then give through the library window to the proper attendant, who will thereupon bring to him the book required[§]." At Hamburgh the regulations of the Town Library state, "Whoever desires to read a book in the reading room must furnish the officer or messenger in attendance with the accurate title of the book required, on a ticket signed with his name[‖]." At Leipsic, the regulations of the Library of the University state, "Every educated person is permitted to demand books for reading or reference, and to make extracts therefrom with pencil, during the appointed hours; but none can be allowed to visit the halls or rooms of the library, unless attended by the proper functionary[¶]." The last quotation with which I will trouble the Committee respecting the regulations of the German libraries is from those of the Imperial Library of Vienna, in which it is stated, "Whoever desires to use books in the Court Library must furnish the accurate title, and, according to circumstances, the specific edition also of the work required, to the proper officer in the reading room, from whom he will

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[*] *Bonn University Library.*—"Wer auf der Bibliothek lesen will, macht zuvörderst dem im Lesezimmer anwesenden Bibliotheksbeamten Anzeige von seinem Namen und Stande. Die verlangten Bücher bezeichnet er dann auf einem mit seiner Unterschrift und der Angabe seiner Wohnung versehenen Zettel, worauf ihm die Bücher, wenn sie vorhanden sind, in das Lesezimmer gebracht werden," &c.—*Reglement für die Universitäts Bibliothek zu Bonn*, V. s. 4.

[†] *Dresden Royal Library.*—"In den angegebenen Stunden werden jedem, der die Bibliothek benutzen will, im Lesezimmer die verlangten Bücher ohne alle und jede Ausnahme vorgelegt; nur der Eintritt in die Säle selbst ohne Begleitung eines angestellten Bibliotheksbeamten, kann nicht gestattet werden."—*Ordnung der Königlichen Bibliothek zu Dresden, &c.*

[‡] *Giessen University Library.*—"Wer auf der Bibliothek Bücher zum Lesen, Nachschlagen oder zum Excerpiren mit Bleistift benutzen will, macht zuvörderst dem im Lesezimmer anwesenden Bibliotheksbeamten Anzeige von seinem Namen und Stande; die verlangten Bücher bezeichnet er dann auf einem mit seiner Unterschrift und der Angabe seiner Wohnung versehenen Zettel, worauf ihm die Bücher, wenn sie vorhanden sind, in das Lesezimmer gebracht werden."—*Verordnung für die Bibliothek, &c.*, s. 34.

[§] *Halle University Library.*—"Wer blos auf der Bibliothek lesen will, geht in das Lesezimmer, schlägt in dem dort liegenden Kataloge nach, ob das Buch, welches er sucht, vorhanden ist, schreibt den in demselben gefundenen Titel, Buchstaben, Nummer und Format, mit Bleistift auf einen Zettel und giebt solchen durch das auf den Bibliotheksaal gehende Fenster an einen der Bibliothekdiener ab, welcher ihm dagegen das verlangte Buch darreichen wird."—*Reglement für die Bibliothek, &c.*, V. 4.

[‖] *Hamburgh Town Library.*—"Wer ein Buch zum Lesen im Lesezimmer verlangt, hat den anwesenden Beamten oder Boten einen mit seinem Namen unterzeichneten Zettel einzuhändigen, worauf der Titel des gewünschten Buches vollständig angegeben ist, &c."—*Reglement für die Benutzung der Hamb. Stadt-Bibliothek.*

[¶] *Leipsic Library.*—"Es steht jedem Gebildeten frei, in den Oeffnungsstunden Bücher zum Nachschlagen und Lesen zu begehren, und mit Bleistift daraus in dem Lesezimmer zu excerpiren, es kann aber Niemandem gestattet werden, in die übrigen Säle und Zimmer ohne Begleitung eines Bibliotheksbeamten zu treten," &c.—*Verordnung über die Benutzung der Bibliothek, &c.*, s. 5.

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will receive what he seeks *." Now in all these instances, the Committee will observe that there is no recommendation required to introduce the reader to the library, but that all that is asked of him is to give his name and address; and he is told that he is expected to come there, not merely to amuse himself, but to carry out some purpose of study.

3326. In your answer to question 332 you expressed a hope that you would be able to place before the Committee fuller information respecting libraries attached to churches in this country than you could then supply; are you now prepared with such information?—I have obtained information more or less full respecting 165 parochial libraries in one county or another, and I find that the great majority of them were instituted expressly for the use of the clergy of the different parishes for the time being; so that they are not to be called strictly parochial libraries, that is, libraries for the use of the parish but they are mostly ministerial libraries, that is, libraries for the use of the minister; but they are, or were intended to be, unalienable. I find that about 60 of those were founded by Dr. Bray.

3327. At what period?—At the beginning of the last century, in the time of Queen Anne; and about 78 were founded by the "Associates of Dr. Bray;" and there were about 35 other libraries, which are termed lending libraries, also founded by the associates of Dr. Bray.

3328. What chronological periods would you mention as the limits of those foundations in point of date?—The earliest of those founded by the associates of Dr. Bray was in 1757, and the latest in 1807; the libraries founded by Dr. Bray date, some of them, as early as 1704.

3329. Therefore the period of the foundation of those libraries dates between 1704 and 1807?—Yes.

3330. But the majority of them were founded between what dates?—The great majority of them were founded between 1704 and 1790.

3331. They were generally for the use of the parochial clergy?—Most of them were for the use of the parochial clergy.

3332. Must not there have been a considerable number of such libraries existing at the time when the Act of the 7th of Anne was introduced, which laid down certain rules for the conduct and preservation of such libraries?—I believe the greater part of the libraries to which the regulations of that Act were intended to refer were libraries founded about the period of the passing of the Act; but there were libraries which the Committee will find in this list, that were of earlier origin. I beg to hand in this list to which I have referred. I may add, that Acts similar in purpose to that of the 7th Anne were passed by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, on the 29th March 1704, the 10th April 1705, and the 16th April 1706; and that books were sent from England in considerable numbers, to form libraries in the Scottish Highlands and Islands. Nineteen presbyterial libraries appear to have been established, in the presbyteries of Zetland, Orkney, Caithness, Sutherland, Ross, Inverness, Aberfour, Abernethy, Strathbogie and Fordyce, Dunkeld, Argyle, and Dumbarton; and 58 parochial or ministerial libraries, in the presbyteries just enumerated, together with those of Alford, Kincardine, Angus and Mearns, Auchterarder, and Dumblane.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

CLERICAL.

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* *Vienna Imperial Library.*—"Wer in der Hofbibliothek Bücher . . . zu benutzen wünscht, hat in dem Lesezimmer dem damit beauftragten Beamten genau der Titel, und, nach Umständen, auch die Ausgabe der von ihm gewählten Werke zu bezeichnen, und erhält von demselben das Begehrte," &c.—*Reglement, &c.*

CLERICAL AND PAROCHIAL LIBRARIES IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

No.	Name of Parish.	County in which the Parish is Situate.	Date of Foundation of the Library.	Character of the Library, and Incidental Remarks.
1	Abergavenny	Monmouthshire	1784	A lending library for the clergy, founded by the "Associates of Dr. Bray."
2	Abernant	Carmarthenshire	1765	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates of Dr. Bray."
3	Admarsh	Lancashire	1757	A clerical library, founded by the same.
4	Alcester	Warwickshire	About 1705	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
5	Alnwick	Northumberland		Ditto - - - ditto.
6	Askrigg	Yorkshire	1757	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates of Dr. Bray."
7	Askengarthdale	Ditto	1761	A clerical library, founded by the same.
8	Bacup	Lancashire	1807	Ditto - - - ditto.
9	Bala	Merionethshire	1763	A lending library, founded by the "Associates of Dr. Bray."
10	Bampton	Westmoreland	1758	Ditto - - - ditto.
11	Bangor	Cardiganshire	1768	A clerical library founded by the "Associates of Dr. Bray."
12	Beaumaris	Anglesea	1796	A lending library, founded by the same.
13	Bewdley	Worcestershire	1781	Ditto - - - ditto.
14	Beccles	Suffolk	-	A parochial library, of which the Rev. J. J. Smith thus writes: "About 1835 I saw the library in the church, in a lamentable condition; about 1840, I went there again and found a room in the town, of good size and well fitted up, with a large number of goodly volumes. The beginning had been made by transferring the church library under proper conditions," &c.
14*	Bishop Stortford	Hertfordshire	1664	There was an old library, formerly attached to the Grammar School in this town, which appears to have been preserved when the school was destroyed. *See* "Gentleman's Magazine" for 1795, ii. 892.
15	Bolton-by-the-Sands	Lancashire	1761	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates of Dr. Bray."
16	Bolterstone	Yorkshire	-	A clerical library founded by Dr. Bray.
17	Brampton	Cumberland	1792	A lending library, founded by the "Associates of Dr. Bray."
17*	Brewood	Staffordshire	About 1705	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
18	Brockthorpe	Gloucestershire		Ditto - - - ditto.
19	Brough	Cumberland		Ditto - - - ditto.
20	Burlington	Yorkshire		Ditto - - - ditto.
21	Cardigan	Cardiganshire	1765	A lending library, founded by the "Associates of Dr. Bray."
22	Carleon	Monmouthshire	1757	A lending library, founded by the same.
23	Carnarvon	Carnarvonshire	1769	Ditto - - - ditto.
24	Castleton	Derbyshire	1817	A parochial library.—"The small library in the vestry of the parish church was collected by G. J. Hamilton, esq. . . . . It was provided that the books should be under the control of the clergyman for the time being, and should be lent at his discretion. They consist of a good deal of old, and some rather valuable divinity. There are also a good number of standard secular works. . . . . . . The whole amounting to between 400 and 500 volumes. No restriction whatever has been imposed upon their circulation . . . . further than this, that their use is confined to the parish, and the books lent are expected to be returned within a certain time. . . . . . There are no funds for its maintenance beyond the chance contributions of friends."—*Rev. C. C. Bates,* Vicar.
25	Chepstow	Monmouthshire	-	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.

(continued)

No.	Name of Parish.	County in which the Parish is Situate.	Date of Foundation of the Library.	Character of the Library, and Incidental Remarks.
26	Clydey	Pembrokeshire	1766	- - A clerical library, founded by the "Associates of Dr. Bray."
27	Cockerham	Lancashire	1761	A clerical library, founded by the same.
28	Cockermouth	Cumberland	1762	- - A lending library, founded by the same.—"There is a library at Cockermouth . . . consisting of about 500 volumes. This library is under the management of trustees appointed by the Bishop of Chester." —*Fifth Report of the Charity Commissioners*, p. 52.
29	Corston	Somersetshire	- -	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
30	Crook	Westmoreland	1757	- - A clerical library, founded by the "Associates of Dr. Bray."
31	Croscrake	Ditto	1761	A clerical library, founded by the same.
32	Darlington	Durham	- -	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
33	Dalton	Lancashire	1757	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates."
34	Debtling	Kent	- -	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
35	Deuddwr	Montgomeryshire	1766	A lending library, founded by the "Associates."
36	Dolgelly	Merionethshire	1796	A lending library, founded by the "Associates."
37	Dorchester	Dorsetshire	About 1705	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
38	Dudliston	Shropshire		- - Ditto - - - ditto.
39	Dullingham	Cambridgeshire		- - Ditto - - - ditto.
40	Eglwys Cymmin	Carmarthenshire	1766	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates."
41	Egremond	Pembrokeshire	1768	- - Ditto - - - - ditto.
42	Ellel	Lancashire	1757	- - Ditto - - - - ditto.
43	Elm Green	Worcestershire	About 1705	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
44	Evesham	Ditto		- - Ditto - - - - ditto.
45	Feckenham	Ditto		- - Ditto - - - - ditto.
46	Field Broughton	Lancashire	1766	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates."
47	Flaxley	Gloucestershire	- -	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
48	Ford	Shropshire	1760	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates."
49	Grayrigg	Westmoreland	1766	- - Ditto - - - - ditto.
50	Gressingham	Lancashire	1761	- - Ditto - - - - ditto.
51	Hadrow	Yorkshire	1766	- - Ditto - - - - ditto.
52	Harrowdown-parva	Northamptonshire	About 1705	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
53	Henley	Staffordshire		- - Ditto - - - - ditto.
53*	Hereford	Herefordshire		- - Vicar's choral library.—This library is stated to have been founded about 200 years ago, by public subscription.
54	Heversham	Westmoreland	1766	A lending library, founded by the "Associates."
55	Hoole	Lancashire	1761	A clerical library, founded by the same.
56	Ingleton	Yorkshire	1757	- - Ditto - - - - ditto.
57	Irthlingborough	Northamptonshire	- -	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
58	Kellan	Cardiganshire	1765	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates."
59	Keswick	Cumberland	1786	A lending library, founded by the same.
60	Kiffig	Carnarvonshire	1766	A clerical library, founded by the same.
61	Kilie Ayrton	Cardiganshire	1765	- - Ditto - - - - ditto.
62	Kilymaenllwyd	Carmarthenshire	1764	A lending library, founded by the same.
63	Kilmersdon	Somersetshire	1705?	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
64	Kingsbridge	Devonshire	1705?	- - Ditto - - - - ditto.
65	Kirkleatham	Yorkshire	- -	- - There is a library attached to the hospital at Kirkleatham, but there is no account of it in the Report of the Charity Commissioners upon that foundation.
66	Kirk Oswald	Cumberland	- -	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
67	Knutsford	Cheshire	- -	A lending library, founded by the "Associates."

No.	Name of Parish.	County in which the Parish is Situate.	Date of Foundation of the Library.	Character of the Library, and Incidental Remarks.
68	Lampeter	Carmarthenshire	1765	- - A lending library, founded by the "Associates."—There is said to be a considerable collection of books at Lampeter, but I have been unable to obtain precise information concerning it.
69	Lancaster	Lancashire	1764	A lending library, founded by the "Associates."
70	Llandawk	Carmarthenshire	1766	A clerical library, founded by the same.
71	Landewi Aberath	Cardiganshire	1765	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
72	Lanewydd	Carmarthenshire	1768	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
73	Langham	Ditto	1766	A lending library, founded by the same.
74	Langley	Bucks	1623	- - A parochial (?) library, founded by Sir John Kederminster, "for the use of the clergyman of this parish," according to the Rev. Mr. Nash, Vicar of Langley; but the Charity Commissioners, in their 25th Report, p. 99, cite an inscription on an ancient tablet in the Kederminster Vault, which reads thus: "Sir John Kederminster made and gave *to this town*, for ever, the adjoining library, in 1623." Mr. Nash describes the library as consisting of "the Greek and Latin fathers, and the chief works on the Reformation controversy, about 300, chiefly folio, volumes. There is no provision for adding to it, and applications for admission to it, excepting from curiosity, are very rare. The books are now well preserved." Mr. Nash adds, that the room containing them was formerly the south porch of the church, and is of as early a date as 1400.
75	Leck	Lancashire	1761	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates."
76	Lindale	Ditto	1761	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
77	Littledale	Ditto	1761	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
78	Little Newcastle	Pembrokeshire	1766	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
79	Llanwog	Montgomeryshire	1764	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
80	Llanwinio	Carmarthenshire	1765	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
81	Llanvihangel Yeroth	Ditto	1765	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
82	Llandissil	Cardiganshire	1765	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
83	Llandweilog	Carmarthenshire	1765	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
84	Llanwannen	Cardiganshire	1765	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
85	Llanbadarn Trefeglwys.	Ditto	1765	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
86	Llanwchajam	Ditto	1766	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
87	Llanarth	Ditto	1766	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
88	Llandisilio Gogof	Ditto	1766	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
89	Llandowror	Carmarthenshire	1766	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
90	Llandillo Fawr	Ditto	1766	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
91	Llanegwad	Ditto	1766	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
92	Llangathen	Ditto	1768	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
93	Llanunda	Pembrokeshire	1768	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
94	Llandevriogg	Cardiganshire	1768	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
95	Llandaff	Glamorganshire	1760	A lending library, founded by the same.
96	Llanfair	Montgomeryshire	1768	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
97	Llanbadarnfawr	Cardiganshire	1769	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
98	Llanrwst	Denbighshire	1794	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
99	Llandeilo	Carmarthenshire	1802	- - A lending library, founded by the benefaction of the Rev. Thomas Lyttleton, who died in 1799, and bequeathed to the "Associates of Dr. Bray" all his books to form lending libraries. "Among his papers a memorandum was found that a library would be useful at Llandeilo, whither they were sent and most gratefully received."
100	London [Parish of St. Botolph, Aldgate.]	- - - -	- -	- - A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray with "330 books."

(*continued*)

No.	Name of Parish.	County in which the Parish is Situate.	Date of Foundation of the Library.	Character of the Library, and Incidental Remarks.
101	Lostwithiel	Cornwall	- -	A clerical library, founded by the same.
102	Lowick	Lancaster	1757	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates."
102*	Maidstone	Kent	- -	- - There was a parish library at Maidstone, in 1736, in which a catalogue of it was published.
103	Marske	Yorkshire	- -	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
104	Middle	Shropshire	1825	- - A clerical library. Francis Henry Egerton, last Earl of Bridgewater, left a library to the rectory of Middle, for the use of the rector for the time being.
105	Mold	Flintshire	1797	- - A lending library, founded by the "Associates of Dr. Bray."
106	Mollerslang	Westmoreland	1761	A clerical library founded by the same.
107	Monmouth	Monmouthshire	- -	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
108	Narberth	Pembrokeshire	1768	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates."
109	New Malton	Yorkshire	about 1705	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
110	Newport	Essex		- - Ditto - - - ditto.
111	Newport	Monmouthshire		- - Ditto - - - ditto.
112	North Walsham	Norfolk	1788	A lending library, founded by the "Associates."
113	Oldbury	Staffordshire	- -	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
114	Old Hutton	Westmoreland	1757	- - A lending library, founded by the "Associates." "There is a library founded by Dr. Bray's Associates. . . . . The books, which are chiefly on divinity, are kept in tolerable condition."—*Seventh Report of the Charity Commissioners*, p. 516.
115	Oswestry	Shropshire	1795	A lending library, founded by the "Associates."
116	Oundle	Northamptonshire	about 1705	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
117	Overwhitacre	Warwickshire		- - Ditto - - - ditto.
118	Oxenhall	Gloucestershire		- - Ditto - - - ditto.
119	Penboy	Carmarthenshire	1765	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates."
120	Pilling	Lancashire	1761	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
121	Poulton	- - Ditto	1757	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
122	Preston	Kent	- -	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
123	Pwllhely	Carnarvonshire	1770	A lending library, founded by the "Associates."
124	Ravenstondale	Westmoreland	1761	A clerical library, founded by the same.
125	Redmire	Yorkshire	1785	A lending library, founded by the same.
126	Ross	Herefordshire	1782	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
127	Secmurthy	Cumberland	1757	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates."
128	Selside	Westmoreland	1757	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
129	Sheldon	Warwickshire	1705?	- - A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray, who, by his last will, bequeathed his own library to this parish.
130	Sheepshead	Leicestershire	1705?	A clerical library, founded by the same.
131	Silverdale	Lancashire	1757	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates."
132	Skelton	Yorkshire	1705?	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
133	Stepton	Devonshire	1705	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
134	South Cowton	Yorkshire	1761	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates.
135	St. Bees	Cumberland	- -	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
136	St. Clear's	Carmarthenshire	1768	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates."
137	St. David's	Pembrokeshire	1807	A lending library, founded by the same.
138	St. Neot's	Huntingdonshire	- -	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
139	Staveley	Lancashire	1757	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates."
140	Stowey	Somersetshire	- -	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
141	Sudbury	Suffolk	- -	- - Ditto - - - ditto.
142	Swansea	Glamorganshire	1793	A lending library, founded by the "Associates."
143	Tadcaster	Yorkshire	- -	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.

No.	Name of Parish.	County in which the Parish is Situate.	Date of Foundation of the Library.	Character of the Library, and Incidental Remarks.
144	Thwaites	Cumberland	1757	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates."
145	Tong	Shropshire	1697	A clerical library, founded by Lord Pierpoint. "Gervaise Lord Pierpoint, by an indenture dated 23 Oct. 1697, granted certain rents and tithes to trustees, and *inter alia*, covenanted that the minister of Tong (for the time being) might hold and enjoy a certain chamber in Tong Castle, as the same was then furnished with books and presses, together with the free use of the said books, and of such other books as he the said Lord Pierpoint should appropriate to the use of the said minister and his successors." "By another indenture of 14 Aug. 1725, it is set forth that Evelyn, Duke of Kingston 'hath built a house in Tong . . . with a convenient room for a library . . . and hath caused a catalogue to be made of the books remaining with the minister, and hath delivered the said books to him for the use of himself and his successors." . . . "The library, which is understood to have been augmented by Mr. Peitier, a former incumbent, was removed several years ago to the vestry room . . . Some additions are occasionally made to it, . . . but it does not seem to have been heretofore sufficiently secure against losses, a diminution having been discovered in 1812 of 59 volumes, from the number of 554 comprised in the catalogue."—*Third Report of the Charity Commissioners*, p. 259.
146	Tonsley	Yorkshire	-	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
147	Treleacht	Carmarthenshire	1765	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates."
148	Trevilan	Cardiganshire	1765	Ditto - - - ditto.
149	Ulpha	Cumberland	1761	Ditto - - - ditto.
150	Ulverstone	Lancashire	1753	A lending library, founded by the same.
151	Waberthwaite	Cumberland	1757	A clerical library, founded by the same.
152	Wasdalehead	Ditto	1766	Ditto - - - ditto.
153	Wenlock	Shropshire	1799	A lending library, founded by the same.
154	Wentworth	Yorkshire	about 1705	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
155	Weobly	Herefordshire		Ditto - - - ditto.
156	Whitchurch	Hampshire		A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray. In this library there is a notice board, which appears to be about a century and a quarter old, stating that all persons taking away books must deposit their value. There is no endowment for the support of the library, and it appears to have fallen into almost total disuse.
157	Whitchurch	Shropshire	1825	A clerical library, founded by the late Earl of Bridgewater, who "by his will, dated 25 Feb. 1825, bequeathed the sum of 150 *l.* to the rector of Whitchurch to be invested in his name, and the dividends expended by him (as also the money arising from the sale of his Lordship's wines in his cellars at Whitchurch) 'in the purchase of printed books, for the use of the rector of that parish for the time being.' These sums constitute the endowment of the library, which now contains 3,077 volumes, of which number 834 are folios. The greater number of the books belonged to the late Lord Bridgewater, and were left by him to the rectory. They consist chiefly of divinity; although there are also many valuable works on history, biography, and general literature. The library is not accessible to the public, except by permission of the rector, who would probably always rejoice in the circulation of the books among those who would make a careful and proper use of them."—Rev. *W. H. Egerton, Rector of Whitchurch*, 15 *May* 1849.
158	Wigton	Cumberland	1783	A lending library, founded by the "Associates of Dr. Bray."
159	Wisbeach	Suffolk	1660?	"About the time of the Restoration, the 10 capital burgesses of Wisbeach, towards the encouragement of learning, prepared the chamber over the church porch, with shelves and other necessaries for the reception of books; and several other gentlemen at the same time liberally contributed both money and books . . . It was afterwards, in a manner, quite neglected, till the year 1712, when some of the neighbouring clergy and gentlemen, considering the advantage of parochial libraries, formed themselves into a club or society, and agreed annually to contribute 20 *s.* each to buy books; hoping that others would take the opportunity to forward such a public good."—*Catalogue of the Parochial Library at Wisbeach, in the Isle of Ely.* (1718—Preface.)

(continued)

No.	Name of Parish.	County in which the Parish is Situate.	Date of Foundation of the Library.	Character of the Library, and Incidental Remarks.
160	Witherstach	Westmoreland	1757	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates of Dr. Bray."
161	Woodchurch	Cheshire	1793	A lending library, founded by the same.
162	Woodplumpton	Lancashire	1757	A clerical library, founded by the same.
163	Woollaston	Northamptonshire	-	A clerical library, founded by Dr. Bray.
164	Wythorpe	Cumberland	1757	A clerical library, founded by the "Associates."

PUBLIC LIBRARY—NOT PAROCHIAL—IN THE COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

165	Bamburgh Castle	Northumberland	1778	A public lending library for all respectable housekeepers usually residing within 20 miles of Bamburgh Castle. Nathaniel, Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham, having by his last will, dated 24 June 1720, bequeathed his manors of Bamburgh and Blanchland, then of the yearly value of 1,312 *l.* 13 *s.* 5 *d.*, but in 1830 producing a net income of 8,126 *l.*, to trustees, for various educational and charitable purposes; in the year 1778, the then trustees under this will, laid the first foundation (according to their own statement) of the library of Bamburgh Castle, "by the purchase of the entire collection of the Rev. Thomas Sharpe, curate of Bamburgh, then lately deceased; and were thus enabled to offer to the neighbourhood, and particularly to the clergy, the use of a considerable number of books in all branches of literature. This purchase was made at the expense of 360 *l.*, and a librarian was afterwards appointed, as well for the care of the books as to attend to such applications as might be made for them. Some additions were occasionally made in subsequent years, by the Rev. Dr. John Sharpe; but it was not until after his death, which happened April 28, 1792, that the trust acquired the largest and most valuable part of this literary treasure. "In this munificent donation, now valued at 808 *l.* 16 *s.* 9 *d.*, is comprehended the most valuable part of the library of John Sharpe, Archbishop of York. . . Besides a very comprehensive collection of the most esteemed works in theology and ecclesiastical history, the best editions of all the classic authors and of our own historians, it contains a very curious assemblage of tracts and pamphlets, chiefly historical and controversial, during a period of more than 30 years." . . Dr. Sharpe, by his will, dated April 17, 1792, bequeathed his library in the following terms: "I give and bequeath to the trustees of Nathaniel, late Lord Crewe, all my books in my library at Hartburn, and in my house at Durham (except as before and hereinafter excepted), which contains the most valuable part of my grandfather's collection, to be kept in Bamburgh Castle. As also all music books which shall be found at Hartburn and Durham at the time of my decease." The "Regulations for the extension of the use and benefit of the library at Bamburgh Castle" published about 1810, state that "every book may be consulted or read in the room, on the day and within the hours above limited. (Saturdays from 10 till 1.) "No book shall, on any pretence, be lent out of the room to any person who is not qualified as hereafter mentioned; viz. "A well known housekeeper usually residing within 20 miles of Bamburgh Castle; "A clergyman of the Church of England, dissenting minister, or Roman-catholic priest, appointed to serve any church, chapel, or place of worship within the said distance, though such clergyman, minister, or priest, should not be a housekeeper. "Every book lent out shall be subject to the demand of any of the trustees . . . All books not demanded shall be returned on or before the 1st of November in every year." Comp. *A Catalogue of the Books in the Library at Bamburgh Castle.* [About 1810. Durham. 4°]; *Twenty-third Report of the Charity Commissioners*, pp. 130, *seqq*; Hutchinson's *History of Durham*, i. 560.

3333. Have

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3333. Have any of those libraries been made available for more extended use than merely to serve the purposes of the clergy?—Several of them have been.

3334. You stated before the case of the library at Beccles; do you know any others?—Several others are mentioned in the list I have laid before the Committee.

3335. Have they been of any service by being so extended?—All those libraries, with very rare exceptions, are of small extent, but such as have been made publicly accessible have been of some use.

3336. Who were the associates of Dr. Bray by whom so many of those church libraries are stated to have been founded?—I can best answer that question by stating how it was, I believe, that Dr. Bray came to take an interest in those libraries for the clergy. The origin of it seems to have been, that in going round the country to solicit contributions for missions to the colonies (a subject in which he took great interest, and he became, I believe, substantially the founder of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel), he was sometimes met by the answer, "There are many objects at home to be seen to, before we contribute to send out missionaries to the colonies. You want to send missionaries and libraries to America; but the clergy here in England often want libraries, and have no means of getting them, and we would rather contribute to found libraries here than in America." And that led Dr. Bray to turn his attention to the establishment of them in England. And another thing which I think increased his interest in the matter was the circumstance, that he himself and other missionaries whom he was the means of sending out to America, were sometimes detained at the outports, and they were desirous of finding libraries to which they might have access, but they found no library from which they could get books, and that led him to think that it would be a thing of great advantage if he could be the means of founding libraries at the outports as well as in other parishes in different parts of the country. I believe he himself founded 61 libraries in England and Wales, all of which were intended by him for the clergy of the different parishes for the time being. He also founded about 50 in America, some of which exist to this day. Dr. Bray gathered round him men who took an interest in similar matters, and they formed themselves into a society which continued in activity for more than half a century after his death, under the designation of "The Associates of Dr. Bray," and they went on in different parts of the country founding libraries where the clergy expressed a desire to have them, laying it down as a rule, that wherever the clergy of the district were desirous to get a library founded, they should meet together and choose trustees for the library, and then they granted books or sums of money to buy books. These "Associates" have still a nominal existence, but I believe they have now scarcely any funds.

3337. Mr. *Milnes.*] Do you happen to know whether that scheme had a peculiar theological tendency?—I believe the books were for the most part confined to theology, but I do not think there was anything of a controversial character about it; they were intended for the use of the clergy; they were all very small libraries of quite a peculiar and professional character. They were of two kinds; one, a fixed parochial library, intended for the use of the minister of one parish, and the other a lending library which was designed for the use of the neighbouring clergy,—for the clergy of several parishes combined together. It was one of their fundamental rules that no persons whatever should have the use of this library but such as were approved of by the major part of the trustees, and every such person was to deposit the value of the books he borrowed.

3338. *Chairman.*] Have you found any libraries of earlier formation than those of Dr. Bray?—I found one of as early foundation as 1623, at Langley in Bucks. That was founded by Sir John Kederminster. It has been stated by the present Vicar of Langley to have been founded for the use of the clergyman of the parish; but in the 25th Report of the Charity Commissioners they cite an inscription on an ancient tablet in the Kederminster vault, which reads thus: "Sir John Kederminster made and gave to this town for ever the adjoining library, in 1623." So that by this inscription it would seem that the library was intended for the general use of the parish.

3339. Have you had an opportunity of examining the reports made by the Charity Commission which was moved for by Lord Brougham in 1819; and have you ascertained whether the Commissioners made any report about those libraries

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which were connected with parishes or with ecclesiastical institutions ?—I have waded through most of those bulky reports, and with no slight trouble because of their deficiency of indexes, but I have been able to discover very few instances of the mention of libraries at all; I think that which I have just stated of Langley, Castleton in Derbyshire, Tong in Shropshire, Cockermouth in Cumberland, and Old Hutton in Westmoreland, are all the libraries of which the Charity Commissioners took any notice; although there were a great many similarly circumstanced, for instance, to that of Cockermouth. Sometimes, I would add, they described the institutions to which the libraries were attached, but passed the libraries over *sub silentio*.

3340. Are those parish libraries still maintained ?—I believe that with reference to the libraries founded by Dr. Bray, or the associates of Dr. Bray, the great majority of them have fallen into desuetude for want of means for their maintenance and increase; I know that some have fallen into comparative neglect and disuse. That of Whitchurch, in Hants, was one of those which Dr. Bray founded; in that instance it appears they had totally forgotten by whom the library was founded, and, in very many parishes, they have totally forgotten that very important clause in the Act of the 7th of Anne, which directs that every incumbent of a parish in which a library of this kind exists, shall make a catalogue immediately after the induction to his living, which he is bound to deliver over, or to leave to be delivered over, to his successor.

3341. Have those libraries in any cases been made available to public use ?—A few of them have, some with very great advantage indeed, which advantage has mainly resulted from transferring, under proper conditions, the library from the church into some appropriate place in the town, and settling some plan for adding to it and keeping it up.

3342. Have you any additional information to give with reference to cathedral libraries in England ?—I have compiled, in a tabular form, all the information which I have been able to obtain respecting the English cathedral libraries; and I beg to hand it in.—[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

CATHEDRAL LIBRARIES OF ENGLAND.

—	Name of Cathedral.	Classes of Books of which these Libraries are chiefly composed.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books.	Endowments, or other Funds for Maintenance and Increase.	Accessibility, Catalogues, &c.; Incidental Remarks.
1	Bristol -	- - - -	1,500 ?	- - - -	- - The library of Bristol Cathedral was greatly injured and dilapidated during the riots of 1831. Before the riots it is stated to have contained 6,000 volumes.
2	Canterbury	- - Theology, English history, classics, many valuable MSS.	4,500 ?	- - Capitular fund amounting to about 550 *l.* a year; visitation gifts of the Archbishop averaging 10 *l.* a year; and donations from prebends on their installation.	- - Open to the clergy and to respectable residents in Canterbury two days in each week. There is a printed catalogue, published in 1802.
3	Carlisle -	- - Theology, English history, and topography.	Uncertain	- - - -	- - "Others besides the clergy are allowed to use the books freely, but as they are principally on theology, their use is almost confined to the clergy." There is a MS. catalogue, compiled in 1821.
4	Chester -	Theology, classics -	ditto -	- - - -	- - There is a MS. catalogue, compiled in 1768.
5	Chichester -	- - Theology, ecclesiastical history, English history, classics.	ditto.	—	
6	Durham -	- - Theology, history, British antiquities and topography, English literature. Also 520 vols. of MSS.	7,259	- - The sum of 200 *l.* is annually expended out of the capitular funds in supporting and increasing this library.	- - "All persons who can fairly be considered responsible are admitted to the use of this library, without any distinction whatever." There is a MS. catalogue, compiled by the Rev. J. Raine, the present learned librarian; and also a printed catalogue of the MSS.

Cathedral Libraries of England—*continued.*

—	Name of Cathedral.	Classes of Books of which these Libraries are chiefly composed.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books.	Endowments, or other Funds for Maintenance and Increase.	Accessibility, Catalogues, &c.; Incidental Remarks.
7	Ely - -	- - Theology, especially English theological controversy.	4,300	- - There is no endowment for purchases, but of late years the chapter has devoted to that purpose certain fees amounting to 40 *l.* or 50 *l.* per annum.	- - The larger part of this collection was bequeathed by Bishop Patrick and by the Rev. Ralph Perkins.
8	Exeter -	- - Theology. [Many valuable MSS. including the Exon Domesday.]	5,500	—	
9	Gloucester	- - Theology, English history, and topography.	Uncertain	- - - -	- - A new catalogue, compiled by Mr. Hough of Gloucester, is stated to be in preparation. This library contains the duplicates of Selden's collection.
10	Hereford -	- - Theology, English history.	ditto -	- - - -	- - This library contains many valuable MSS.
11	Lincoln -	- - Theology, English history.	4,451	- - - -	- - Many rare and valuable early printed books, including three Caxtons, were sold by the dean and chapter about 1816, and a considerable number of modern works, chiefly historical, were purchased with the proceeds.
12	London (St. Paul's)	- - Theology, ecclesiastical and general history, classics.	5,500	- - - -	- - In this library there is a very valuable and remarkable collection of Bibles, more particularly of the English version.
13	Manchester	- - - -	Uncertain	- - - -	- - Described by the dean in 1849 as "a good library, open on application to the use of the clergy and of the respectable inhabitants of the place."
14	Norwich -	- - Theology, general and British history, classics.	ditto -	- - - -	- - "Books are lent to the clergy and to literary persons, on easy conditions." A large portion of the books in this library were presented by Dr. Frank Sayers.
15	Peterboro' -	- - Theology, English history.	ditto -	- - - -	- - A catalogue has been recently drawn up by a bookseller of Cambridge. The books are stated to be freely lent to the inhabitants of Peterboro', upon proper application. 1,500 volumes were presented by Bishop Kennet.
16	Ripon -	- - Miscellaneous, including a few rare and curious books.	ditto -	- - - -	This library was founded in 1608.
17	Rochester -	- - Theology, ecclesiastical and English history.	ditto -	- - The library is kept up by the donations of successive prebends on their several installations.	- - A copy of the first English Bible (Coverdale's of 1535) is preserved in this library.
18	Salisbury -	- - Theology, ecclesiastical and English history.	4,600	- - - -	- - "Open to any of the clergy of the diocese who may request admittance."
19	Wells -	- - Theology, English history.	5,000	- - - -	- - There is a MS. catalogue of this library, compiled about a century ago. A new catalogue is understood to be in preparation.
20	Westminster	- - Theology, English history, classics.	11,000	- - - -	- - There is a MS. catalogue of this library, compiled in 1798.
21	Winchester	- - Theology, ecclesiastical and English history, classics.	Uncertain	- - - -	This library was founded in 1682.

(*continued*)

CATHEDRAL LIBRARIES OF ENGLAND—*continued.*

—	Name of Cathedral.	Classes of Books of which these Libraries are chiefly composed.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books.	Endowments, or other Funds for Maintenance and Increase.	Accessibility, Catalogues, &c.; Incidental Remarks.
22	Windsor -	- - Theology, miscellaneous works.	Uncertain	—	
23	Worcester -	- - Theology, English history.	6,000	- - "Every dean and canon of Worcester, on his presentation, makes a donation of 20 *l.* to the fund for the augmentation of the library."	
24	York -	- - Theology, ecclesiastical history, British history, and topography.	7,700	- - - -	- - Access to this library is very liberally accorded. It includes the valuable collections of Archbishop Matthews and of Dr. Fothergill. There is a MS. catalogue of it, compiled by the Rev. J. Dallin, the present librarian. There are also many valuable MSS. This library was founded in 1628.

3343. Have the cathedral libraries generally any permanent fund for their maintenance and increase?—I am sorry to say that a great number of them appear to have no permanent fund for their increase. The best endowed cathedral library appears to be that of Canterbury, which has about 550 *l.* a year from capitular funds, and also, upon the average, about 10 *l.* a year additional, arising from the visitation gifts of the Archbishop. At Durham the sum of 200 *l.* a year is expended out of the capitular funds in supporting and increasing the library. Most of the other cathedral libraries have either no funds at all of a fixed and settled character, or very small ones.

3344. Do you think that those libraries might be made of greater utility to the public, without interfering with their specific character as ecclesiastical and capitular libraries?—I think it would be a most desirable thing if they could be made accessible to the public in some way that should at once make the books which they at present contain more generally useful, and assist in providing funds for adding to them; and I think that although there may be difficulties in devising a plan which would have that result, still if those difficulties could be surmounted positive good would arise, in more ways than one, from connecting with our ancient cathedral institutions libraries of a generally accessible and useful character.

3345. What is the maximum number of volumes contained in those libraries?—I think the largest is the library of Westminster Abbey, which is 11,000 volumes. This library is said to have been founded for public use. In the MS. collections of Bagford, now in the Harleian collection of MSS. in the British Museum, it is stated: "In the great cloyster of the Abbey of Westminster is a well-furnisht library . . . erected by Dr. Williams, Dean of Westminster and Bishop of Lincoln, who was a great promoter of learning; he purchased the books of the heirs of one Baker of Highgate. He founded it for public use, every day in term time from 9 to 12, and from 2 to 4. . . . The MSS. are kept in the inner part, tho' now many of them are consumed by a late fire."

3346. They range from 4,000 up to 11,000?—Yes.

3347. How many cathedral libraries are there in Ireland?—I have only been able to obtain precise information respecting four cathedral libraries in Ireland; those of Cork, Kilkenny, Londonderry, and Raphoe.

3348. How are those libraries endowed?—The library of the cathedral of Cork was founded by Bishop Browne in 1720, and endowed by Archdeacon Pomeroy in 1723; but I am not able to state to what amount those endowments extended.

3349. Were any of those libraries intended by the founders to be open to the public?—With reference to the library at Cork, Mr. Erck, in his Irish

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Ecclesiastical Register, describes it as a public library. But the Bishop of Cork, in his answer to the Irish Record Commissioners in 1810, states it to be, "A private library, consisting only of the books of Archdeacon Pomeroy, who founded it." The diocesan library of Ossory, in Kilkenny Cathedral, was founded in 1692, by Bishop Otway.

3350. Were any of those libraries intended to be open to the public?—I think that all of them were so intended by the founders, as far as I can infer from the language used in the deeds of foundation. The library of Londonderry is founded in these words: "For the use of the clergy and gentlemen of the diocese for ever." This Table I will deliver in.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

DIOCESAN OR CATHEDRAL LIBRARIES OF IRELAND.

No.	Name of Cathedral.	Date of Foundation of Library.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books.	Endowment or other Means of Support; Particulars of Foundation, &c.	Accessibility; Catalogues; Remarks.
1	Armagh -	- -	- - -	- - See preceding list of Public Libraries (*Evidence of April* 19).	
2	Clogher -	- -	- - -	- - - - - -	- - The cathedral library of Clogher is mentioned in Reports of Irish Record Commissioners, vol. 1, p. 306.
3	Cork - -	1720	About 3,000? -	- - This Library appears to have been founded by Bishop Browne in 1720, and endowed by Archdeacon Pomeroy in 1723[*]; but of what this endowment consisted, I am unable to state. Erck, in his "Irish Ecclesiastical Register" (p. 183), describes it as a public library. Windele, in his "Historical Notices of Cork," (1840, p. 50), says "Though nominally free of admission, access by the public is not of easy attainment."	- - The Bishop of Cork, in his answer to the Irish Record Commissioners, in 1810, describes this as "a private library, consisting only of the books of Archdeacon Pomeroy, who founded it." This statement appears to be erroneous, but the public are still excluded, as I learn by the information of Edward Hoare, esq., of Cork.
4	Derry - -	1726	Uncertain - -	- - Founded by Archbishop King, for "the use of the clergy and gentlemen of the diocese for ever."—See Harris' Ware, i. 366.	- - "The diocesan library of Londonderry is tolerably rich in old books of divinity, and is open to the clergy of the diocese at all times, when there is no interference with the business of the school to which it is attached."—*Memoir on the Ordnance Survey of Ireland*, i. 157.
5	Dublin - -	- -	- - -	- - 1. Archbishop Marsh's library at St. Patrick's.—See preceding list of Public Libraries (*Evidence of April* 19). 2. Library at Christ Church, or Cathedral of the Holy Trinity . . . . The library of this cathedral, besides a few printed books, contains a large collection of manuscripts. —See *Reports of Irish Record Commissioners*, vol. 1, p. 307 *et seq.*	

(*continued*)

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[*] Comp. Ledwich in Vallancey's *Collectanea*, ii. 503; and Harris' Ware, i. 572.

DIOCESAN OR CATHEDRAL LIBRARIES OF IRELAND—*continued.*

No.	Name of Cathedral.	Date of Foundation of Library.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books.	Endowment or other Means of Support; Particulars of Foundation, &c.	Accessibility; Catalogues; Remarks.
6	Kilkenny -	1692	About 5,000 -	- - Bishop Otway founded this Library by his last will, in these words: "Item, I give my books, and 200*l.* in money, and more if needful, for the beginning of a Library for the Cathedral Church of St. Canice, for the use of the clergy about it." In 1756, Bishop Maurice bequeathed his own Library in the following terms: "I leave my printed books to the Library founded by Bishop Otway, in Kilkenny; all that are now at Dunmore, as well as those that are now at Kilkenny; provided a fair catalogue be made of the books; provided likewise that an oath be taken by the librarian to give due attendance to such clergy and gentlemen as may be disposed to read there." He forbade the books to be lent out of the library, and gave 20*l.* a year towards the librarian's salary.	- According to the Second Report of the Irish Record Commissioners (1810–15, Supp. p. 312), there were in 1815, in the Diocesan Library of Ossory, 4,000 vols. of printed books.
	Ossory, *see* Kilkenny.				
7	Raphoe -	1737	4,000 - -	- - - - - -	- - "The most valuable portion of the books in this library were contributed by Bishop Hall, of Dromore."—*Ibid.* iii. 113. The original founder of the library was Bishop Forster.

3351. In what way do you think that libraries of old foundation in the United Kingdom generally, might be made useful to the public?—I think the first thing would be to give them some permanent means of support. The great hindrance to the public usefulness of such old libraries as exist in the country, arises very much from the inadequacy of their means to keep pace with the progress of literature; and those libraries that obtain some sort of support from subscriptions, find that support very fluctuating; so that I think the first thing would be to devise some plan by which they could obtain grants from a public fund, upon condition that some local subscriptions shall also be raised, and making the amount of public aid dependent upon the amount of the local subscriptions. There might also be advantage in giving a power to exchange books; since it sometimes happens that libraries in small and obscure places possess books of great curiosity and rarity, and are very deficient in modern works. The rare books would be of most public advantage in London, or at Oxford, or in Dublin, and to transmit them thither might be made the means of furnishing the small provincial libraries with what they most want. I am also of opinion that it would be a very desirable thing if something of a topographical character were given to those libraries, so that in every part of the country there should be at least one library containing a large collection of books relating to that part of the country, to its history and antiquities; I think that would be a very great advantage. But no means that could be devised for improving the libraries would, I think, attain that object, unless it were part of the plan that good catalogues of the libraries should invariably be printed and published.

3352. Can you suggest any plan by which catalogues of such libraries could be published at comparatively small cost?—I think it might be very desirable to devise a plan by which such catalogues could be made to subserve the purposes of many libraries at once, in those cases in which great economy is essential. In several of the cathedral libraries, for instance in those of Exeter, Peterborough, and Winchester, and even in the library of Trinity College, Cambridge, in place of having an original catalogue, the librarians have used an interleaved copy of the Bodleian Catalogue, making it indicate whether the books were in the libraries under their respective charges. Now I think that for libraries of no great extent, and especially for libraries containing very much the

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the same books, as in the case of the cathedral libraries, a catalogue might be made which would answer for them all; and I would call the attention of the Committee to a form of catalogue which exists in the naval libraries of France, which is so constructed that a simple reference indicates in how many libraries the book contained in the catalogue is to be found; I think that a catalogue upon some such plan as that, might be very usefully introduced for a number of small libraries. I will hand in a brief specimen of the form of catalogue adopted in these French naval libraries.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

SCIENCES ET ARTS, *MATHEMATIQUES PURES,—GEOMETRIE.*

Nos. d'Ordre du Catalogue Général.	Désignation des Ouvrages.	Bibliothèques et leurs Nos. d'Ordre.		
		Ports.	Hôpitaux.	Paris.
8995	Vallée (L. L.)	B. 1706	- - -	M. 1151
	Traité de Géométrie Descriptive.	L. 584		
	Paris, veuve Courcier, 1819.	R. 521		
	in 4^0 rel.	T. 734		

Catalogue général des Bibliothèques de la Marine, Tom. ii. p. 715.

Note.—B. indicates the port of Brest. L. that of Lorient. R. that of Rochefort. T. that of Toulon.

M. indicates the Ministry of Marine at Paris.

3353. Do not you think that a kind of generalising and centralising catalogue is of essential importance?—I think it is of the greatest importance, and that in fact upon the catalogues of a library its utility entirely depends.

3354. Do you think that in a large public library there should be a department of catalogues of libraries?—I think that is very important, and is one reason why catalogues of public libraries should invariably be printed.

3355. Do you think that catalogues of public libraries should be alphabetical or classified?—That is a question to which I have given much study for many years, and the result of the best consideration which I have been able to give to it is a most decided opinion that classified catalogues are far preferable to alphabetical; and with the permission of the Committee, I would enumerate some of the reasons why classified catalogues appear preferable to alphabetical ones. In the first place there is the obvious advantage of presenting a great many books, upon the same subject, to the reader who consults them. It is true that many persons may find it more easy to use an alphabetical catalogue than a classified catalogue, with the principle of the construction of which they have no special acquaintance; but I think that the purposes of an alphabetical catalogue can be better answered by supplying the classified catalogue with an alphabetical index of authors' names, than you can answer the purposes of a classified catalogue by putting a classed index to an alphabetical one. There is a general notion that classification involves great difficulty in the preparation of a catalogue; but the difficulties that attach to any system even of alphabetical catalogue are very great, so that it is only a choice between difficulties. I think too that in respect to classification, very much might be done, even by what may be termed mechanical arrangements, to simplify the use of such catalogues.

3356. According to your plan, persons who wish to refer to the author's name would look to the alphabetical index first?—Persons who know precisely what books they are in search of, would of course preferably resort to an alphabetical catalogue or index. But even where that is the case there must be a reference for every individual work, which involves great trouble to a man who needs to use many works. But if a man gives himself the pains to master a classified system, one reference will supply him with a great many books upon the same subject. I would add that the alphabetical system only presents advantages with respect to books which have their authors' names. But in all libraries the number of books which have not the authors' names is very large.

3357. Sir *John Walsh.*] Are you aware of any instances in which the two systems of an alphabetical and classified catalogue have been carried on?—I believe that on the Continent you would find the two systems in many libraries; but I think the more general practice is to combine the two, upon the principle of classifying the main catalogue of works,—placing the full titles of the books under the classified arrangement,—and then appending to that an alphabetical index of authors' names; and I think that is the most useful thing to be done in a public library which is to be resorted to for the purposes of serious study and research.

3358. Mr. *Milnes.*] How would you treat collected works?—I would present their titles to the reader under all the classes to which they relate, and I would not mind having duplicate entries for such works.

3359. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Do not you think that whatever form of catalogue is adopted, a very considerable amount of duplicate entries becomes necessary?—Even upon the alphabetical system you cannot avoid a great deal of duplication of entries; and although it seems at first that if you give the titles of the books under the names of the authors, you will have no very great difficulty, yet there are a great many books as to which the names themselves require to be subjected to certain rules before you can settle how they shall appear. Compound names and almost all foreign names present a variety of headings, either of which might be selected; and unless strict rules are laid down, one person would place an author in one part of the catalogue and another person would place the same author in another part, even of an alphabetical catalogue.

3360. Does not it appear to you necessary that there should be very frequent double references and cross references, in order that a person may not go away disappointed of his book. For example, take the description of Rome published by Bunsen, as to which it happens that Bunsen's name does not stand in the title-page; in such a case as that is not it essential that you should have an entry under the name under which everybody cites the book?—I think you cannot avoid that. So far from the multiplicity of cross references being an objection to a catalogue, they are a great advantage to it if they are reasonably well done. I would add, that when I said that the difficulties attendant upon classification, in respect to the ready and facile use of a catalogue, may be lessened by mechanical arrangements, I meant to suggest just this: since it must be admitted that to use even an alphabetical catalogue easily and with advantage, there must be an acquaintance with the rules upon which such catalogue has been constructed, and since by prefacing your catalogue with those rules you may enable the reader to master them; so you may simplify the subdivisions under which different classes of books have to be entered in a classed catalogue, if, besides the general analysis of the catalogue, there be a sort of synopsis prefixed to each class and to every sub-division of a class, so, for example, that a man should see at a glance, under "Mathematics," all the subdivisions of that heading; and I think if that were done carefully, a classed catalogue would become as easy to use as an alphabetical catalogue; both, indeed, requiring considerable knowledge on the part of the person using them for really studious purposes.

3361. *Chairman.*] But you are of opinion that, upon whatever plan they may be constructed, the catalogues of public libraries should invariably be printed and issued to the public?—I attach the highest importance to the printing and publication of the catalogues of public libraries invariably. I would say, that for several reasons it is of essential importance that they should be printed. The service of the library itself will be better carried on with a catalogue in print, than it can possibly be with a catalogue in manuscript. The very fact of having a number of copies is an advantage. Any gentleman who has ever been in the reading-room of the British Museum will have seen that the greatest disadvantage frequently arises to the readers from the necessity of their all referring to one catalogue, so that a man may sometimes wait an hour before he can get access to that portion of the catalogue which he requires to use. The printing enables you to put a great number of copies of the catalogue at the service of readers. Another reason is the great advantage which literary men, habitually frequenting a public library, may derive from being enabled to consult its catalogues in their own studies at home, so that before going to the reading-room they may see what books will be useful to them, and so abridge what is always the least agreeable incident of attendance in a public and crowded room, the labour of repeated and often fruitless searches before what is needed is discovered. In no respect is a saving of time more important than in this.

3362. Mr. *Milnes.*] Are you aware of any one of the first class libraries on the Continent which possesses a printed catalogue?—I think there are a great many; I believe that the Munich library has a printed catalogue of some kind, either actually in the press, or in contemplation to be printed. But I am not myself familiar with many libraries out of France, so that I cannot speak of German catalogues from personal knowledge of them.

3363. Are you aware whether a printed catalogue has ever been contemplated of the Bibliothèque Nationale at Paris?—Six folio volumes of a printed classed catalogue exist, which was intended to be completed, and I have never heard that that intention has been abandoned even now.

3364. Mr. *Bunbury.*] At what time were those printed?—I think 80 or 90 years ago.

3365. *Chairman.*] Are there any other public libraries of magnitude in France which have printed catalogues?—A great many have. I may mention that of Grenoble, that of Bourdeaux, containing 110,000 volumes; and that of Lyons, containing 70,000 volumes. In general I would say, that in France printed catalogues are the rule, and manuscript catalogues quite the exception.

3366. Mr. *Milnes.*] Are you able to say whether there exists in all Europe a printed catalogue of any library to the amount of 200,000 volumes?—I would say at this moment that I have certainly seen such catalogues, but I cannot charge my memory to state them with precision.*

3367. Mr. *Wyld.*] Have they not at Gottingen a very large printed catalogue?—Yes; that is so stated, at least.

3368. *Chairman.*] You are of opinion that even for those large libraries printed catalogues are required for the service of the public?—I believe that it is merely a question of expense, and that money devoted to libraries can in no way be spent so as to conduce more greatly to the public advantage, than by printing and publishing good catalogues.

3369. You are of opinion with Monsieur Vander Weyer that the catalogue is the eye of the library?—Quite; I think that is a very happy expression. I was going on to observe further, that I think it ought to be borne in mind that a catalogue of a large library would be very useful even to persons who may never go into the library to which it relates. In public libraries it is of the greatest importance that such catalogues should be printed and interchanged. Many purposes of research may sometimes be answered by referring to a good catalogue that can be trusted and depended upon, without the need of seeing the book itself. No catalogue of merely rare and curious books will answer the purpose. It is often of the greatest advantage to a man who has to write the life of some celebrated person, to be able at one view to see all the books either written by him or relating to his life and career. Even the commonest and most trivial of the pamphlets relating to a celebrated person have often as much importance as elaborate works have. Therefore I think that the plan of printing catalogues merely of rare and curious books would entirely fail to meet the ends for which catalogues ought to be prepared; I would add that rare and curious books are precisely those which are the best known. You may want often to find the titles of a great variety of common books which can never be found described anywhere except in the catalogue of a vast library; so that such a catalogue becomes a most valuable contribution to bibliography, and to the history of literature.

3370. In the British Museum are you rich in the catalogues of other libraries?—Of late years great attention has been bestowed upon collecting such catalogues, and a great many have been obtained; but till the last 10 or 12 years very little attention was bestowed upon it. So that there are still remarkable lacunæ in the collection, and there are many important catalogues which exist, which are not always or readily to be obtained.

3371. Do not you think it indispensable that a library like that of the British Museum should have a collection of the catalogues of all the public libraries in England?—I think it is very important; and of the libraries on the Continent also.

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* See, on the point of printed catalogues, the letter appended to the evidence.

3372. In fact, in a literary point of view, may not the intercommunication of such catalogues be considered almost an international question?—I think so; it would greatly promote literary research.

3373. In that view does it not become still more requisite that the catalogues should be printed, because unless they are printed they cannot be internationally communicated?—I think so; I would say that a present of the complete catalogue of the British Museum, for instance, would be a most valuable thing, and that the Government would do literature great service by presenting such catalogues to foreign libraries and to many foreign institutions of various kinds, and that such presents would be very highly valued.

3374. And would probably be reciprocated by those libraries?—No doubt of it.

3375. In fact you think it would be very desirable, if possible, that a literary man should be able at the British Museum to find catalogues of the libraries of all the world?—I think it most important, and I think the utility of such catalogues would depend upon their being full and complete up to the time of their respective publication.

3376. Mr. *Wyld.*] Would it not facilitate the preparation of the catalogue if the books were placed before the compositor under a glass case, and the compositor were to set up the title in print in the library itself?—I am afraid that idea could not be practically carried out to any great extent, because, in order to catalogue books, it is not enough to see the title-page. A great deal of bibliographical knowledge is requisite to catalogue a large number of books. A man must refer not only to the book itself, but to many others. For instance, all early books require a great deal of research, and merely mechanically copying the title would not answer the purpose. In fact, many books have no title-page at all. A mechanical arrangement of that kind might be useful, but I do not think it could supersede the necessity of literary, scientific, and bibliographical knowledge on the part of the persons employed.

3377. In large public libraries, do not you think it would facilitate the completion of the catalogue if such a system were adopted, that the compositor should receive the book from the hands of the librarian, which should be placed in a glass case to preserve it from injury, and that the compositor should set up the title in print in the library itself?—I think that there may be a certain number and class of books for which that process might very beneficially be employed.

3378. And with a very great saving of time and labour?—Undoubtedly; in the cases to which it may be found applicable.

3379. *Chairman*]. Have you any information to give to the Committee respecting a library at Bristol?—There exists in Bristol a library, of which I had no precise knowledge at the time of my previous examination, and which therefore I did not then mention. It is called the City Library. There is, I understand, a large number of very old books in this library, and there are certain contributions for the maintenance of it. It does not appear that this library is open to the citizens of Bristol. There is also a City Library at Norwich, which appears to partake of this double character, of a town and a subscription library. In the preface to its printed catalogue of 1732, it is said: "This library, . . . the property of which is solely in the City of Norwich, . . . was founded by the great and generous benefactions of many of the magistrates," &c.; and the "foundation book" is stated to commence thus: "Bibliotheca publica Norvicensis communi studiosorum bono instituta incœpta et inchoata fuit anno 1608." The worthy magistrates of Norwich were probably desirous of wiping away the reproach addressed to their city half a century before, by John Bale, when he wrote, "I have been also at Norwyche, oure seconde citye of name, and ther all the library-monuments are turned to the use of their grossers, candel-makers, sope-sellers, and other worldly occupyers: so studyouse have we been there for the commonwealthe, and so carefull of good lernyng." This is a good and extensive library, but I believe its use, like that of the Bristol library, is now confined to subscribers.

3380. In your answer to Question 389, you spoke of the import duty on foreign books as constituting, in your opinion, a serious obstacle to the increase of public libraries. Have you anything further to remark upon that subject?—I have to submit to the Committee some further remarks upon that subject, which I would preface by observing that complaints have been made in evidence before the Committee of the great deficiency of foreign books of different classes in the existing libraries; more than one witness has spoken upon that point, and certainly no one can be acquainted with the libraries which exist in this country without being aware of their great deficiency in that respect, which seriously affects the utility of those libraries to the public. I think that deficiency is partly connected with the enormous rate of import duties levied upon foreign books, and that it is one reason why that duty ought to be either abolished or greatly modified. The present rate of duty payable on the importation of foreign books may be divided into four classes: the first class of duties is on all works printed in those countries with which we have an international copyright treaty: that is 15*s.* per cwt., or 1½*d.* per pound. Those countries now comprise Prussia, Saxony, Hanover, Brunswick, and the various Saxon principalities, and form nearly the whole northern part of Germany, excluding however the free towns of Frankfort, Hamburgh, and Bremen. An eminent foreign bookseller, Mr. Nutt, states to me "that at least three-fourths to four-fifths of all books brought to England from Germany are produced in the countries just enumerated;" but he adds, "I do not, however, think that this reduction of duty has caused so large an increase in the importation as is generally supposed. I should not conceive that it has been augmented more than 30 or 40 per cent. On one class of books, namely, the current literature of the day, the influence has been scarcely felt; the average reduction on the prices of works of this kind is but 12½ per cent., and as the average value of volumes is probably about 5*s.*, it is evident that a reduction of 6*d.* is not likely to have any material influence on the sale." The class of books most benefited by the reduction of duty, is that comprising the cheap reprints of standard works, and more especially the modern editions of Greek and Latin classics; the duty on the latter description having formerly been double that payable on works in the living languages (or 105*s.* per cwt. instead of 52*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.), the difference is of course more perceptible. Moreover many works of this class having a much more universal and enduring sale than the ephemeral publications of the day, are published at a much lower proportionate price originally, and the duty being levied on the weight and not on the value, the difference is more perceptible. From the greater range in the prices of works of this nature published abroad, the reduction of prices in this country varies more than on living language books; it may be stated at between 15 and 40 per cent., the average probably being about 25. There can be no question, I think, that the reduction of duty has caused a sensible increase in the importation of Greek and Latin books, and that many works are now imported, which, under the old system of duty, would never have been brought over at all. This effect has been in some degree assisted by the circumstance of many of the old publishing houses having within the last few years imitated the English system of selling off their remainders, thus throwing a number of valuable books on the market at a reduced price. The combined operation of these two causes seems to have produced a demand for certain books which otherwise would have been totally unsaleable. But in order to enjoy the benefit of this reduction of duty it is necessary that all the books should have an official stamp indicating that they are brought over in consequence of the international treaty upon copyright. The second class of duties is 52*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., or about 5½*d.* per lb., on all books in the living languages printed or published since 1801, in any part of Europe except those portions of Germany above mentioned. The third class of duties is 105*s.* per cwt., or about 11*d.* per lb., upon the books in the dead languages, likewise printed since 1801, out of the privileged parts of Germany. And the fourth and last class of duties is on all books printed prior to 1801, 21*s.* per cwt., or about 2¼*d.* per lb. With respect to the books in the second category of duties, the remarks already made as to the influence of the reduction of duty on the current literature of Germany are in some degree applicable; there can however be no doubt that the cheap editions of the works of standard European authors would be materially reduced in price in this country by the equalization of duties; for example, the works of Goethe and Schiller (published in Wurtemberg, with which country we have no copyright treaty) would certainly be sold 15 per cent. cheaper. I think the Committee will see that there would in that way be a very

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a very important saving made in the purchasing of foreign books for the use of public libraries. The greatest effect produced by the reduction of all duties to 15 *s.* per cwt. would unquestionably operate upon that class of books which is now comprised in the third category of duties, and which would not merely be materially reduced in price, but largely augmented in sale. During the last few years the presses of France, Belgium, and the south of Germany (that portion excluded from the operation of the international copyright treaty), have teemed with reprints of old books mostly theological, which are published at so low a price abroad that the present rate of duty (being, as before stated, levied on the weight and not on the value) amounts in many cases to an impost of 50 or even 75 per cent. on the value; and in numerous instances is altogether prohibitory. I believe the operation of the present high rate of duty on books of this class to be most impolitic and pernicious. With respect to the books in the fourth category, little need be said; the duty, though small as compared with that in the foregoing one, is equally impolitic and absurd, and there can, I think, be little question that it ought to be abolished altogether. I am convinced that if it were abolished many thousand volumes would find their way to this country which are now lying useless in warehouses on the Continent, and innumerable chasms in our public libraries and great collections would thereby be filled up. I think, therefore, upon a consideration of the whole subject, that so long as the continuance in this country of the excise duty on paper shall seem to necessitate some impost on the importation of foreign books, there ought to be only one rate of duty, viz. 15 *s.* a cwt. on books of every description printed since 1801, and that the duties on books printed before that date ought to be abandoned altogether.

3381. Why not abandon the duty on all foreign books?—That would be still better.

3382. Mr. *Bunbury.*] If the custom-house officers enforce the law as it now stands, are they not obliged to make a careful examination of all foreign books, and look at each of them individually?—Yes; from the present absurd manner in which the duties are levied, there is great evasion of the Act, and I have no doubt that many books are brought in at the lowest rate of duty which ought to pay the highest. The custom-house officers, especially in the outports, are quite unable to divide the books into those categories into which the Act divides them, and the consequence is that the whole thing is open to fraud, which unscrupulous persons take advantage of, to the injury of the fair trader: and I think that that is another reason why the system should be entirely altered. It frequently happens that books in living and dead languages are confounded; the distinction is not made, and it is not likely that it should be made. With reference to this subject I wish to be allowed to place before the Committee a letter which was addressed by the eminent bookseller, Mr. Nutt, whom I have already named, to Sir Robert Peel, at the time the tariff question was under consideration, in 1841; I think that letter, which is not very long, throws some light upon the general subject, and is worth inserting in the evidence.

[*The Witness delivered in the Letter, which is as follows:*]

"Sir,

"I venture to intrude a few minutes on your valuable time, and to call your attention to the subject of the duty on foreign books. I am induced to do so by observing in the report of the proceedings in the House of Commons on Monday evening, that in reply to a question from Dr. Bowring, you are made to state that you did not consider the duty of 20 *s.* per cwt. on books printed prior to 1801, as an excessive one. In this opinion I beg most respectfully to coincide, and having, during the last 10 years, imported and sold many hundred tons weight of such books, I am enabled to speak with some degree of experience; but you will find on referring to the tariff that the duty on books printed since 1801 in living languages is 50 *s.* per cwt., and in the dead languages 100 *s.* per cwt. Although I think it would be most desirable to equalize both these rates to about 30 *s.* or 40 *s.*, I nevertheless consider that no very serious objection can be raised against the first mentioned of these rates; but as regards the second I am in a position to assert without any fear of contradiction, that it is not only impolitic but that it operates in many instances as an absolute prohibition to a large class of books, the publication of which has been very much increasing the last few years on the Continent, and the sale of which it would be most desirable to promote in this country. I allude more particularly to the numerous reprints of old books which have now become very rare, such as the works of the Fathers of the Church, Commentaries on the Scriptures, all of which, being in Latin or Greek, are subject to the duty of 5 *l.* 5 *s.* per cwt. One illustration I will with your permission mention: the works of St. Bernard have lately been reprinted in Paris in four vols. imperial 8vo.; the bookseller's price of this is in Paris

32 francs, or 26*s.* sterling, but as the book weighs 15lbs. the duty is fully 14*s.*, the expenses for carriage, &c. 5*s.* or 6*s.* more, making an addition of nearly 75 per cent. on the original cost. I should have observed that the duty on any old edition of this work is at the utmost 3*s.*, and it is perfectly anomalous that there should be so great a difference between the duty on the original edition, and the reprints. The sale of the latter is by this means doubly checked; in the first place by reason of the greatly enhanced price, and in the second from the inability of the importers to incur to any extent the risk of the heavy duties and charges on such books (which must be paid in cash whether they sell or not), and on which there is no drawback in the event of their being returned. It is the custom with the publishers of Germany to send out their new works on "sale or return" for one year after they appear; and were it not for the heavy duties on Greek and Latin books large quantities of such would be continually sent over, and would in numerous instances, by being seen, be sold; at present we can only avail ourselves of the privilege to a very small extent. I beg again to assert my deliberate conviction, founded upon an experience of seven or eight years in the trade, during which I have paid annually 500*l.* and 800*l.* duty on foreign books, were the two rates of duties above mentioned equalized to 30*s.* or 40*s.* per cwt. the revenue would lose nothing whatever; encouragement would be given to the spread in this country of a most meritorious class of works, viz. reprints of classical and theological works, and the strange inconsistency would be removed of making a volume of Aristotle pay a duty of 100 per cent. higher than a modern French or German novel; an anomaly for the existence of which, as far as my experience goes, I can find no reason whatever.

"Trusting you will bestow on this matter the attention which I flatter myself it deserves,

"I have, &c.
(signed) "*David Nutt.*"

3383. What is the total amount of duties now paid annually on the importation of foreign books?—In 1841 it amounted to 8,500 *l.*; in 1845, to 10,493 *l.*; in 1846, to 9,201. These totals were made up of the following items:—

——	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Class 1, books printed prior to 1801 -	721	628		
Class 2, book printed in or since 1801, not in foreign living languages - -	2,261	1,848		
Class 3, books printed in or since 1801, in foreign living languages - -	7,436	6,555		
English books printed in British possessions abroad - - - - -	75	91		
Foreign books entered under 9 & 10 Vict., c. 58 - - - - - -	- -	79		
TOTALS - - - £.	10,493	9,201		

3384. Mr. *Wyld.*] Supposing the present excise duty on paper were maintained, and the import duty were abolished on foreign books, do not you think that our publishers would be exposed to a very unfair competition?—I think that constitutes an additional and very weighty reason why the excise duty on paper should be abolished. I had the honour in my previous examination of stating to the Committee, that, in connexion with this subject of public libraries, the imposition of that paper duty is eminently obnoxious. I would advocate the total abolition of the duties both on foreign books and on paper.

3385. *Chairman.*] And the advertisement duty?—And the advertisement duty, because that duty also impedes in a very great degree the production of important works in literature.

3386. Mr. *Wyld.*] You have stated that the import duty on some foreign books is 1½ *d.* a lb.; is not that only equivalent to the excise duty on paper in Great Britain?—Yes, and that is the reason why the lowest rate of duty was fixed upon the favoured class of books, in order to be equal to the duty imposed upon paper.

3387. *Chairman.*] Have you any suggestion to offer to the Committee with respect to the formation of new public libraries?—I think, generally speaking, advantage ought to be taken, wherever it is possible, of existing libraries, as the foundation or nucleus upon which larger collections might be based; but in

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answering the question I would divide what I have to say with regard to different classes of libraries. I think, first of all, there are the libraries that we need in the capital cities; next to these are the libraries that are needed in provincial towns; and then there are the village libraries, the formation of which ought to be encouraged in rural parishes: those seem to me to be three classes of libraries which ought to be separately looked at. With respect to London, I think it is of the highest importance that there should be at least two new libraries founded, strictly of a public kind, and such as should keep pace with the progress of literature, in addition to the library of the British Museum, and that they might with great advantage be adapted to a different class of readers, so as in some degree to draw away from the reading-room at the British Museum certain of what I may venture to term, in a literary sense, the less important class of readers: such a change would enable that establishment better to meet the wants and requirements of the higher class of students. I think those libraries might be rather what one would term educational libraries, the British Museum Library continuing to be a library which should be encyclopedical, having all sorts of books, bestowing its funds not only on the purchase of books of intrinsic value, but also on those of curiosity and rarity. If new libraries were formed in London they ought not to go beyond the books that are intrinsically valuable, not seeking to purchase curiosities or rarities; and it would deserve consideration whether advantage might not result from giving to every such new library a special and distinctive character, in respect to the classes of books of which it shall mainly consist; one being chiefly legal, another chiefly medical, and so on. In Edinburgh there is also great need of a new public library; Edinburgh has several libraries, but to none of them is access unrestricted. Dublin also is in great need of a library that shall be at once accessible to the public and contain a good supply of modern and foreign books; there is no such library at present, but there is an excellent groundwork for one in Archbishop Marsh's library. With regard to provincial towns, I think, as I have said before, that particular attention ought to be paid to the literature of the locality, a sort of topographical character ought to be given to them. Most of our great towns have no libraries at all that can in any proper sense be termed public, so that what has to be done there is entirely from the beginning. I think it would also be important that the claims of country parishes should not be overlooked; an entirely different class of libraries is needed there from those which are required in the great towns, and I think the plan which has been already suggested of itinerating libraries eminently deserves the consideration of the Committee; the adoption of that plan has certainly done great good in Scotland, and I think it would be worth trying whether it could not be brought into operation in England.

3388. Have you turned your attention to the question of the convertibility of any of the old existing libraries in London to more general public use?—I think it would be perfectly easy to take advantage of some of those libraries.

3389. Of which of them?—I think Williams's Library in Redcross-street, and the library of Sion College, might both be increased from public funds with very great advantage. I would venture to add that I think it would be a most misplaced and false idea of economy that should stand in the way of a liberal grant in aid of the foundation of new libraries, provided it went upon the principle that there should be local contribution, as there is in the administration of educational grants, to meet the public aid; and that local management should be united with central supervision. The recent liberality of Parliament in respect to education, far from checking voluntary effort, has given it a fresh and vigorous impulse. In some quarters it appears to have stimulated energies which would otherwise have remained comparatively dormant. I cannot doubt that similar results will follow in respect to libraries, if the same conditions be ensured. And there is the additional advantage, that whereas many good men have seen difficulties and entertained objections in the way of Government intervention in educational efforts, nobody objects to a Government provision of libraries or museums,—the tools and implements of education. It is universally felt that without Parliamentary aid such an institution, for instance, as the British Museum, would not exist.

3390. Mr. *Bunbury*.] Have you ever attempted to form anything like an estimate of what the cost of a library of a certain magnitude would be; for instance, a library of 20,000 or 30,000 volumes, if well selected, would be a very useful

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useful library for public purposes, but have you any idea approximately what that would cost?—I have estimated that a library of good character might be formed of such a magnitude as that named in the question, at something like the rate, upon the average, of from 10 *s.* to 12*s.* a volume, including good and durable bindings. I do not think it could be done at less than that. I may state, with reference to the recent acquisitions in the British Museum, that the average, cost of binding included, has been in some years nearly 15 *s.* a volume. For the large number of volumes (110,000), including pamphlets and works of every description, which have been added to the Museum during the eight years 1841 to 1848 inclusive, it has been but 8 *s.* 5 *d.* per volume; but to a large proportion of these the cost of binding would have to be added.*

3391. *Chairman.*] In Question 143 of your last examination you were asked if you could furnish the Committee with comparative tables of public grants made by the Government of this country and of France respectively, in support of public libraries. Are you able now to supply them?—Yes, I beg to hand to the Committee three lists: the first, an abstract of the sums expended on the library of the British Museum, from its foundation to the year 1848; the second, a general table of the Parliamentary grants for libraries and museums in England, Scotland, and Ireland, from the year 1823 to 1848, both inclusive; and the third, an account of the sums granted by the French Chambers for the support of public libraries and museums in France, also from the year 1823 to 1848, both inclusive. And I wish to state that I have found it impossible to answer the question which was put to me without including in the tables both libraries and museums, not only from the circumstance that the vote for the British Museum includes both the museum and the public library, but also that several of the votes of the French Chamber include institutions having the double character; and therefore I have been obliged to extend the enumeration to museums and libraries. [*The Witness delivered in the same.*]

Vide Appendix.

3392. Mr. *Wyld.*] Have you devoted any attention to the formation of class libraries, suited to the wants and pursuits of particular localities; such as maritime works for maritime towns, and works on designs for manufacturing towns?—I think very great advantage would result from that discrimination in reference to the wants of particular localities, and I meant to include that when I spoke of giving what I call a topographical character to the libraries. In Manchester, for instance, you would naturally pay special attention to works upon design, because such works are of eminent utility there. I would also state to the Committee that such special libraries are to be found on the Continent, not only of considerable magnitude but of excellent character. There is a commercial library at Hamburgh which is, I think, a model of what a library upon commerce ought to be; and the Committee would find there a printed classed catalogue, well drawn up.

3393. Those special libraries might be formed at less expense than general libraries?—They might; and I have no doubt at all, more particularly with reference to special libraries, that directly such libraries of a public nature were set on foot, private co-operators would be found in plenty. There are many men who would be willing contributors to public libraries, and more especially to those special libraries; because there are many men who have collections of works upon special subjects, who would be glad to see them devoted to public purposes, being certain that they would continue to be set apart and maintained, and not allowed to fall into neglect, as they might do if given to private institutions.

3394. Do not you think that the general education of the people would be promoted to a greater extent by the formation of special libraries, than by the formation of large general libraries?—I have no doubt it would in many parts of the country be so; but I think we ought in London, and in Dublin, and in Edinburgh, most certainly to have large and comprehensive encyclopedical libraries, and even in such places as Birmingham and Manchester we ought to have one large library of a general nature; but in addition to those, it would be most desirable that there should be special libraries, and I believe such libraries could

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* *See*, with respect to the cost of books for public libraries, the Letter appended to this Evidence.

E. Edwards, Esq. could be formed at a comparatively small cost, and would be productive of great public advantage.

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3395. *Chairman.*] Do you think that libraries connected with the cotton trade would naturally be formed at Manchester, and libraries connected with the woollen trade and manufacture at Leeds, and so forth?—I think special collections upon such subjects would be of the highest importance, and would in many ways conduce to the public advantage; and I would venture to add that at this time especially, upon general grounds, I think there could be no more wise and prudent expenditure of public money than in the promotion of libraries. At a time when we know that there are a great many subversive doctrines afloat about property, it would have an excellent effect that, out of public monies, there should be an extension of that public domain which all men have in common, whatever their station. It is with an excellent result that of late years, in this country, something has been done in this direction in the way of public gardens and museums, and it is very much required that the same thing should be done in the way of public libraries, to which all classes should be admitted, and all should feel that they contribute towards their support, and that they come to them, not in an eleemosynary fashion, but to profit by that which they have themselves helped to establish.

3396. Mr. *Wyld.*] Where you have found special libraries existing on the Continent, have you found increased intelligence in the communities?—Most unquestionably; and I believe in Lyons, if you could examine the master manufacturers, they would tell you that they had derived great advantage from the steps which have been taken to make works upon design accessible to the different classes of artisans; and I think it is a reasonable deduction that one cause of the excellence of French designs is, that not only is good artistic education more easily attainable in France than in England, but that also there is greater familiarity with books, and books are more easily accessible: there was excellent information on that head given to the Committee by M. Guizot.

3397. If it were impossible to form the general library of which you spoke, and special libraries at the same time, to which library would you give the preference?—Generally, with reference to the smaller provincial towns, I would say, begin with special libraries, because you could form them with limited means of doing the thing, and I have no doubt it would in time tend to promote the desire to form general libraries also.

3398. You think that the formation of special libraries would lead to the formation of libraries on a larger scale?—I think so. Such good results would follow from any well-considered movement in that direction, that it could not fail to be imitated and continued.

3399. *Chairman.*] And you think that any impulse given, either by the Government or by local authorities, in favour of extended libraries, would be met by corresponding assistance, and be welcomed on the part of the people?—I believe it would be in every way productive of great advantage, and that it would tend to encourage that good feeling between the Government and the governed, which we ought eminently to desire.

3400. My question had reference to the point, whether it would be well supported by the people and well received?—I think that anything done in this direction from public resources would lead to active co-operation in many cases, and that private individuals would be found liberal contributors to such an object.

3401. And it would be gladly received by the public?—I have no doubt of it.

3402. Can you supply the Committee with any information on the subject of the Scotch libraries, in addition to that which has been already given by other witnesses?—I have circulated a series of questions in many parts of Scotland, and obtained a considerable number of letters from persons connected with different libraries in that country; and I will endeavour succinctly to tabulate the information thus obtained, and have the honour to lay it before the Committee in a tabular form.

[*The Witness delivered in the same*:]

[The following LETTER (principally on the subject of CATALOGUES) was subsequently addressed to the Chairman, by Mr. *Edwards*.]

E. Edwards, Esq.

5 June 1849.

5, Cunningham Place, St. John's Wood,
Saturday, 23 June 1849.

Dear Sir,

UPON reading on the proof the evidence I had the honour to give before the Select Committee on Public Libraries, on the 5th instant, I perceive that my answers to questions 3362 and 3366 failed to supply the precise information sought for by those questions, and therefore need some further elucidation. With respect indeed to the latter of the two questions I have referred to, the Committee did me the favour at the time to grant me permission to supply afterwards what my memory would not then enable me to state.

Q. 3366.

Question 3366 was thus framed: "Are you able to say whether there exists in all Europe a printed catalogue of any library containing 200,000 volumes?"

I answer: "I would say that I have certainly seen such catalogues, but I cannot charge my memory to state them with precision at this moment." (3366, 5 June 1849.)

Bodleian Catalogue.

It was my impression when this question was put to me, that it referred, like the preceding question 3362, exclusively to continental libraries. I now see that impression to have been erroneous. But for this mistake on my part, I should at once have stated that we need go no further than Oxford to find a "first-class library" of 220,000 volumes, completely catalogued, in print. Whatever defects in point of plan or execution may attach to the Bodleian Catalogue—and I confess that, for my own part, I would have preferred a classed catalogue, with an alphabetical index of authors,—I hold its publication to be a great boon conferred on literature by the venerable university at whose press it was printed.

Catalogue, now in the press, of Trinity College, Dublin.

I might also have mentioned that I had just had the pleasure of reading the first-proof sheets of a complete catalogue of the library of Trinity College, Dublin. That library indeed contains but 105,000 volumes, but it is a fine collection, and probably, in intrinsic value, surpasses many of greater extent.

Catalogue of the Library of the Faculty of Advocates, of Edinburgh.

The Library of the Faculty of Advocates in Edinburgh, which now contains about 150,000 volumes, has also an old printed catalogue of which a new edition is very much to be desired, but is scarcely to be hoped for, without some such special aid from public funds as I have had the honour to advocate before the Committee, and it is precisely because I have no hope of seeing good printed catalogues of our public libraries, not even of the smaller ones, without Parliamentary assistance, that I have so earnestly urged the subject upon your attention.

MS. Catalogues of Chetham's Library, at Manchester, and Marsh's Library, at Dublin.

At this moment excellent catalogues of the two oldest and most easily accessible libraries in the kingdom—Chetham's Library at Manchester, and Archbishop Marsh's Library at Dublin,—are lying in MS., ready for the press, but cannot be printed for want of funds. In both instances the librarians state that to print the catalogues would be of the highest public advantage, and are ready to make personal sacrifices to facilitate their production.

If it would be of real service to literature, and to the public, to print the catalogue of a library of 20,000 volumes, it would be of still greater service to print that of a library of 200,000 volumes, since the larger the catalogue the longer will it supply students with information about the great majority of the books they may need to consult upon any given subject, without obliging them to have recourse to appendices or supplements. In truth, however rapid the increase of publication may be, or may become, a catalogue accurately representing the contents of a great public library at the present day, would not, for generations to come, cease to be of immense service to the student, since it must long continue to contain not only the most valuable, but also the greater number of all the books of any value at all, which exist upon every leading topic of human inquiry.

The reasons for printing the full and complete catalogues of Public Libraries, and for selling them at a very cheap rate, may, I think, be thus briefly summed up:—1. A catalogue in print will, *cæteris paribus*, be better executed than one which is merely in manuscript. 2. The internal service of the library itself will be better carried on with numerous copies of its catalogue in print, than with a few copies in MS. 3. Students habitually frequenting a library will be enabled to purchase the catalogue, and, by consulting it beforehand, to ascertain what books there are in the library relating to their respective pursuits, will escape the necessity of spending in searching for books the time that ought to be spent in reading them. 4. The printing of catalogues is an indispensable condition of the introduction of the lending system into our libraries. 5. The deficiencies of a library will be better known, and more easily supplied, if its catalogue be published and be kept up by periodical supplements, than if it remain in MS. 6. The printed catalogue of any large collection of books will be a valuable contribution to literary history and to the science of bibliography, and may render most important service even to students who may never enter the library to which it belongs. 7. Such a catalogue will be a valuable donation to other Public Libraries and learned societies both here and in foreign countries, and may thus be made to subserve the important object of literary intercourse and interchange between different nations. And, 8. In those libraries where a great number of copies of the catalogues are indispensable, and their wear and tear rapid, the system of printing them will, in the long run,

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prove to be more economical than that of copying them in MS. But even were printing the more expensive, the cost of it must be incurred, if Public Libraries are to be liberally administered, and to be extensively useful to the public and to literature. It were idle to lavish money in collecting books, and then to be niggardly of it in making them accessible.

The whole question, then, seems to resolve itself into a question of funds. If a library can only print a catalogue by ceasing to acquire new books, and by cramping its establishment, and diminishing its usefulness to the public in all other respects, then, of course, catalogues will not be printed. This is the principal cause why, on the Continent, printed catalogues of large libraries are either not extant, or have been commenced and are not yet completed.

Classed Catalogue of the National Library of Paris. Q. 3363.

The excellent catalogue of the National Library of Paris,* referred to in my answer to question 3363, embraced only the classes, Theology, Polite Literature, Canon Law, and a portion of the class Civil Law, at the time of its suspension, caused first, it would appear, by the decease of the principal editor, and afterwards by the disordered state of the French finances, and the deplorable changes introduced into the management of the library, under Louis XV. The rapid and enormous influx of books at the suppression of the monasteries, in '92, sufficiently accounts for the further suspension of the work after the Revolution. Yet in the very heat of that stormy period, Talleyrand had the wisdom and foresight to propose the employment of some of the learned Benedictines of St. Maur in the resumption of this great enterprize. Had he not been overruled, there would probably have existed little cause for the complaints now so rife respecting the "catalogue arrears" at the National Library. "But such," says a recent French writer on that subject, "is the inevitable connexion between the proper keeping up of catalogues and their preparation for the press, that from 1753, downwards, we see the zeal of all the librarians cool and die away. To delay to print is to cease to compile: the rule is without exception." † But many as have been the difficulties which have impeded the production of complete catalogues of the greater European libraries, there are still excellent models to be found.

M. Paulin Paris, on the necessity of printing the catalogues of public libraries.

Audiffredi's Casanate Catalogue.

Probably the best alphabetical catalogue which exists is that of the largest library in Rome, the Casanate, (now containing about 120,000 volumes of printed books,) edited by the learned and laborious Audiffredi. The information it contains is at once accurate and copious. Like the Paris catalogue, it appears to have been interrupted by the death of the editor; and the four folios in which it is comprised (containing 5,710 columns) do but carry it to the end of letter K.‡ There is another very good alphabetical catalogue of a smaller library at Rome, that of Cardinal Imperiali, compiled by Fontanini, Archbishop of Ancyra.§

Imperiali Catalogue.

The very useful catalogue of the Thott Library, a portion of which is now included in the Royal Library of Copenhagen, comprises 122,000 volumes of printed books, and was compiled by Eccard and Elert, in 12 volumes, octavo, and printed at Copenhagen between 1789 and 1795.

Bunau Catalogue.

One of the best classed catalogues ever printed, is that of the valuable library of Count Bunau, now forming part of the Royal Public Library at Dresden. It is in seven volumes quarto, admirably compiled by the learned Franckius.‖

If it were possible for me to detail the limited resources and the peculiar difficulties under which these works were compiled, it would become manifest enough that neither the paucity of their number, nor the incompleteness of some of them, constitute any the least argument against a similar enterprize, under more favourable circumstances, now. ¶

Chief causes of the absence of printed catalogues in some of the great libraries of Germany.

At present none of the great libraries of Germany has funds at all adequate to the publication of catalogues. The resources even of the best endowed amongst them do but suffice for acquisitions, and for the efficient maintenance of their ordinary establishments; and when the revenues of most of the States to which these libraries belong are contrasted with the revenue of Great Britain, it will seem marvellous that they do so much, not that they fail

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* Catalogue des livres imprimés de la Bibliothèque du Roi. [By Sallier, Boudot, Capperonnier, and others] fol. Paris, 1739–53; 6 tom. [and part of tome 7.]

† Paulin Paris, *De la necessité de commencer achever et publier le catalogue général des livres imprimés, de la Bibliothèque Royale*, (1847), 2e édit. p. 19.

‡ *Bibliothecæ Casanatensis Catalogus librorum typis impressorum.* Fol. Romæ, 1761–88.

§ *Bibliothecæ . . . Imperialis . . . Catalogus secundum auctorum cognomina ordine alphabetico dispositus, etc.* Fol. Romæ, 1711.

‖ *Catalogus bibliothecæ Bunavianæ.* 4to. Lipsiæ, 1750–56.

¶ Nor is it any argument against a *classed* catalogue to allege that classification is difficult and systems diverse. I entirely agree in the opinion on this point of M. Paulin Paris: "All systems of classification," he says, "have their difficulties, their complexities, and their advantages. But it does not thence result, that before classifying anything, I must solve all these insolvable problems. It would be as well to insist that before walking, one must learn from a teacher of dynamics with which foot one should begin. The important thing is to set out."—*De la necessité, &c.* ut supr. p. 18.

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fail to do more. The whole income assigned by the Prussian Government to the Royal Library of Berlin, is 4,000 *l.*; and that assigned to each of the great libraries of Vienna, Munich, and Darmstadt, is only about half that sum. The Royal Library of Copenhagen has but 1,250 *l.* a year; that of Dresden, little more than 500 *l.* It cannot be doubted that but for this want of funds, so fine a library as that of Munich, for instance, would already have a printed catalogue, more especially since its present manuscript catalogue possesses the only disadvantage, without possessing any of the advantages, attendant upon printing. It is comprised in 60 large folio volumes, so closely written as to admit of no intercalations for works added to the collection; so that the titles of new works are only written on slips, from which a supplementary catalogue is hereafter to be compiled.

System of Catalogues at Munich.

If, however, no catalogue of a great continental public library had ever been commenced or even contemplated, I should but deem it the more honourable for wealthy Britain to set such a precedent. No European country can boast of names more illustrious in letters than those which adorn the British annals, and none has done so little for the aid and honour of those who cultivate literature, science, or the arts. No country is richer in private collections, both literary and scientific, and none so poor in those which belong to the public. The wish uttered by Bale, exactly 300 years ago,* that "there had been, in every shire of England, at least one solemn library, to the preservation of noble works and preferment of good learning in our posterity," is but a wish yet; but is, I hope, in a fair way to be accomplished as one result of the labours of Your Committee.

Q. 3390.

With reference to question 3390, I also desire to make some addition to my answer, with the view of further elucidating, from actual experience, the cost of such books as Public Libraries for great towns ought to be composed of.

Prices of books added to various libraries in Great Britain and Ireland.

In my answer to that question, I stated that the cost of 110,000 volumes added to the library of the British Museum, by purchase, since 1841, was, on the average, 8*s.* 5*d.* a volume. To that statement I am now enabled to add the cost of similar purchases by other libraries in various parts of the kingdom.

NAME OF LIBRARY.	Number of Volumes Added by Purchase.	Years of such Purchases.	Aggregate Cost.	Average Cost per Volume.
			£.	£. *s.* *d.*
LONDON: British Museum - -	110,437	1841–48	46,515	– 8 5
" Sion College - -	1,130	1847–48	726	– 12 10
OXFORD: Bodleian Library -	37,063	1826–42	24,368	– 13 2
DUBLIN: Marsh's Library - -	54	recently	35	– 12 11
" Royal Irish Academy -	5,937	1823–48	2,796	– 9 5
EDINBURGH: University Library	9,283	1837–48	7,454	– 16 1
St. ANDREW'S: University Library	10,099	1837–48	7,560	– 15 –
MANCHESTER: Chetham's Library	115	at various times.	141	1 4 7½
TOTALS - - -	174,118	- - -	89,595	Average Cost of the whole No. of vols. - - 10*s.* 3¼*d.*
Mean Average of the Cost per Volume - - -				14*s.* 1*d.*

I may add, that the average price of the books of which the Library of Congress of the United States of America is composed has been 14*s.* 7*d.* ($ 3.50) per volume, and that of the library of Burlington University, in the State of Vermont, 6*s.* 3*d.* ($ 1.50). I have no means of stating it with exactness for the libraries on the Continent of Europe.

William Ewart, Esq., M.P.
Chairman of Select Committee
on Public Libraries.

I have &c.
(signed) *Edward Edwards.*

P.S.—I might also have added to the instances given in my first examination, of the disadvantage and injury inflicted on our literary men by the want of good public libraries in this country, that of the learned historian of North America, Dr. James Grahame, who, within the last 30 years, left his native country, and went to reside at Göttingen, for no other purpose than to enjoy the advantages of its rich and liberally accessible library whilst engaged in the compilation of his work.

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* In his preface to Leland's "New Yeare's Gift to Kynge Henry the VIII." 1549.

Martis, 12° *die Junii,* 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Bunbury.
Mr. J. A. Hamilton.
Mr. Kershaw.
Mr. Thicknesse.
Mr. Wyld.
Mr. Ewart.

WILLIAM EWART, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Joseph Brotherton, Esq., a Member of the Committee; Examined.

J. Brotherton, Esq., M. P.

12 June 1849

3403. *Chairman.*] HAVE you any communication to make in illustration of the good disposition which exists for the establishment of libraries in our principal towns?—Yes. During the Whitsuntide holidays I had an interview with the mayor of Salford, and suggested to him that it was very desirable a public library should be established in that borough. I suggested that if a suitable building, a librarian, fuel, and lights could be provided at the expense of the corporation, I felt confident that ample subscriptions and donations of books would be provided by the public. He entered heartily into my views, and there being an excellent house in the borough, in Peel Park, very suitable for the purpose, belonging to the corporation, we visited it; and I may state that there are large commodious apartments which may be occupied as reading rooms, and adapted for either a library or a museum. The mayor promised to bring the subject under the consideration of the town council. I have since received a letter from him, in which he states that he had consulted with three influential members of the council, all of whom entered cordially into his views, and promised to subscribe 100*l.* each towards a fund for purchasing books and other articles; and he added that he intended to subscribe 200*l.* for the same purpose. He further states that he is quite satisfied that a public library and museum can be established that will do credit to Salford, and be of very great public benefit. The subject will be taken into consideration by the council at their next meeting. I propose that the library shall be open from 10 in the morning until 10 o'clock at night; that it shall be free to the public, subject to such regulations as the council may deem necessary for the preservation of order; that the property shall be vested in the corporation as trustees for the public; that a proper catalogue shall be provided, that persons may know what books are contained in the library. I have no doubt that the subject will be taken up in a liberal spirit by the corporation, and I feel confident that we can raise a library of 10,000 or 20,000 volumes.

3404. From your knowledge of other towns in the manufacturing districts should you say there would be a similar feeling for the establishment of such libraries?—From communications I have had, I have no doubt that libraries would be established in several of the manufacturing towns. There is a growing desire for information, and by having these libraries open in the evening they would be the means of weaning the people from the public-houses.

3405. Mr. *Bunbury.*] What is the population of Salford?—The Parliamentary borough of Salford contains about 70,000 inhabitants.

3406. *Chairman.*] As you have paid much attention to the practical consideration of these questions, and as you were chiefly instrumental in passing the Act which enables the Town Council to establish museums, what practical suggestions would you offer for vesting the property of such institutions as museums in given parties?—I would have the property vested in the corporation, as it does not require any transfer on the basis of trusts. It is a perpetual body, which is a great advantage; besides, the public, I have no doubt, will liberally support institutions of this kind, if they feel confident that they will be preserved for the benefit of the public. I have known libraries established by private subscription that have, for want of support, been obliged to be sold. Of course, when persons give books, or other articles for the improvement of the operative classes, they have no certainty that those works will be preserved, unless there be private subscriptions to defray the expenses of the establishment, whereas if the corporation bind themselves to provide suitable rooms and librarians, and the necessary attendants, I am certain that the public will support it by donations

J. Brotherton, Esq M. P.

12 June 1849.

tions of books and subscriptions for the purchase of works which will be highly useful to the public, besides the works given by Government, the public records, for instance; they only give them to corporations, they will not give them to private libraries. There will be this advantage in any public library being established by a corporation, that the Government will feel certain that any aid which they may grant to these institutions will be aid granted to the public, and not to any particular class of persons.

3407. Is it not a fact that the old foundations of this country connected with education, grammar schools, and a variety of charitable foundations, have failed in the object of utility from the want of a permanent, perpetually renewed body of trustees?—I think they have; and besides you cannot expect that donations or bequests of books can be given where there is no security that they will be preserved for the benefit of the public. I have no doubt that if libraries are established in large towns, that every author in the district will feel pleasure in sending copies of his works to the public library, and the different publishers of newspapers very probably would be induced to send copies that would be filed and preserved for the use of the public in those libraries.

3408. Mr. *Wyld.*] In towns where there are no corporation or properly constituted bodies in whom the property can be vested, what would you recommend as the proper course to be adopted for the purpose of securing so desirable an object?—In order that the property might be secured, it is necessary it should be vested in a corporate body of some kind. The overseers are considered a corporate body; but at any rate I think there must be an Act of Parliament in order to enable them to levy a rate for supporting a building at least, and it should be provided that there be a perpetual succession, so that the expense of deeds should not be incurred in transferring the trusts; and also that it should be secured to the public without reference to any sect, or party, or particular denomination. It is of great importance that all the inhabitants of a district should have free access to the library or museum to partake of its benefit, and they will never grudge a small rate for the support of the establishment.

3409. Mr. *Bunbury.*] Are you of opinion that all public institutions, such as public libraries, should be exempt from local taxation?—I think it very desirable.

3410. You know a Bill was brought in by the Attorney-general last year, which is inoperative to a certain extent?—These institutions are vested in trustees, and they are not so secured to the public as I would wish these libraries to be. I wish the libraries, as I have previously stated, to be vested in the corporation and inalienable, so that the public may be satisfied that future generations shall have the benefit of these establishments; and that is not secured to the institutions that are established; they are in the hands of trustees, and the expense of transferring them, the inconvenience and sometimes unpleasantness of choosing trustees or managers, leads to, I may say, the destruction of the institution.

3411. Where there does not exist a corporation it is impossible, under the present state of the law, to give the same degree of security as when you give them to a corporation?—That is my impression. If the property belonged to a corporation it would be exempt from local taxation. Several of these institutions are supported by subscriptions, or they may derive income from receiving money for the admittance of the public. This involves them in some difficulty as to whether they are rateable, but if the institution be free to the public, and it be the property of the corporation, certainly it ought to be free from taxation. I am very desirous that all institutions for the encouragement of learning, and for the instruction of the working classes generally, should be as free from taxation as possible. About 25 years ago I assisted in the formation of our mechanics' institution at Manchester; it has been a very prosperous institution, and I should say that it ought to be free from taxation although they receive money for admittance to hear lectures and other means of improvement. I would give every encouragement possible to the public in order to induce them to afford the necessary aid, but I would much rather that these institutions should be vested in the corporation, that they might be perpetuated and secured to the public.

George A. Hamilton, Esq., a Member of the Committee ; Examined.

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3412. *Chairman.*] HAVE you turned your attention to the bearing of the institution of libraries upon the existing state of education in Ireland?—Yes. At an early period of the inquiry before the Committee a witness stated he supposed that the people of Ireland were very far behindhand with reference to education. Although that may be true with respect to some parts of Ireland, it struck me it was a mistake with reference to the state of the people of Ireland generally; on the contrary I thought it probable it would be found, considering the pains that have been taken to promote education in Ireland during many years past, that a very large proportion of the people could read and write; and at the same time I thought it likely it would be found that there was great neglect with reference to furnishing them with the means of more advanced instruction after they had so learned to read and write; accordingly I took some pains and caused inquiry to be made with reference to the number of libraries in Ireland, and I turned my own attention to the state of the people at the present time with reference to education.

3413. Can you give the Committee the result of your inquiries upon that subject?—Education, certainly, has been progressing for some years past very rapidly in Ireland. The census of 1841, which is an extremely interesting and valuable document, prepared by Captain Larcom, and some other gentlemen who are great authorities on these matters, affords much information upon that subject. The Census Commissioners prepared a table, which they annexed to their report, showing the number of persons five years old and upwards in every parish and town in Ireland, according as they could read and write, or could read only, or neither read nor write, and they attached also a shaded map to their report, representing the degree of ignorance or knowledge which prevails throughout each district. They state that in the year 1841, on the 5th of June, there were no fewer than 502,950 persons, between 5 and 15, in the course of education, attending schools; and the number of individuals in Ireland out of the whole population between those ages was only 2,057,156. Then on referring to the reports of different educational institutions since, there has been a very large increase indeed; in the numbers which the census cites, there were at that time 281,849 children attending the National Schools, whereas in the year 1848, according to the report just now laid upon the table of The House, there are no fewer than 507,469; so there has been an increase in the children attending the National Schools alone, comparing 1841 with 1848, of no fewer than 225,620. That would make the number in the course of education at the present time upwards of 700,000. Then, adopting another means of arriving at an approximation of the number of children and young persons now in the course of education, I find that there are attending the National Schools, as I stated before, during the year just now expired, 507,000; attending the Church Education Schools, which is a distinct establishment, 120,202; attending Sunday Schools, not attending other schools, 100,000, which would make about 730,000 young persons in the course of education. I have no doubt, on taking into account various other societies engaged in educating the people, out of little more than two millions, which is the proportion of the population between 5 and 15, there must be at least 800,000 young people in the course of education, which I apprehend is a very large proportion. Then, on referring to another table contained in that census, in which the state of education in the different provinces is exhibited, it appears that in the province of Ulster 67 per cent. of the population above five years old, of the male population, can either read or write, or can read; in Leinster, 64; in Munster, 54; and in Connaught, 40. In the county of Antrim, out of a population of 115,000 in round numbers, males above five years old, 91,000 can read or write; in the county of Down, in the same way, out of a population of 150,000, 115,000 can either read or write; and on one large estate in the county of Down, from which accurate returns were made for a different purpose, I find out of a population of 18,941, that being the entire population, including children under five years old, no fewer than 15,328 could either read or write.

3414. Would you draw any inference of the increased value that libraries would bestow upon such a population, who are better instructed than they formerly were?—I think it is obvious, from what I have stated as to different parts of

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of Ireland, that a very large proportion indeed of the population can read, and yet I shall be able to show that the supply of libraries which can afford to persons the opportunity of reading is extremely limited indeed. As I have stated already, I caused inquiry to be made, as far as I possibly could do so, in the principal towns of Ireland, with reference to the existence of public libraries. There are 19 towns in Ireland with populations of more than 10,000 inhabitants in the year 1841, and there are 31 towns with populations between 5,000 and 10,000, and yet, as far as I can make out, I am enabled to state, there are only six of those towns in which there are any libraries that can be at all considered of a public character. In some of the other towns there may be subscription libraries, and I believe there are, but I have every reason to suppose there are no libraries that can be considered at all accessible to the mass of the people. The first town with reference to which I have any information as to libraries is the town of Armagh. That town contains a population of 10,000, and it is situated in one of the best educated parts of Ireland, and yet it appears there is only one library in that town; a library founded by Primate Robinson, open at certain hours every day to the public, who, it is stated, may borrow on deposit. It contains 10,000 volumes, consisting of the Greek and Latin Fathers, and most of the standard works in Divinity, History, Travels, Antiquities, and Classics. The town of Cork contains a population of 106,000; in that town there are three libraries; the first, which is called the Diocesan Library, is stated to be open to all clergymen, and to all other respectable persons: the books, however, are chiefly theological, and the library is stated to have been founded in 1723. It is principally a theological library, and not therefore adapted to the exigencies of the population: it is called the Cathedral Library of Cork. The second library in Cork is connected with what is called the Cork Library Society, and contains 11,000 volumes; there are 400 subscribers, so that it is essentially a subscription library, and it possesses a good classified catalogue. The advantages of the library are stated to be open to subscribers at one guinea. The third library of Cork is the Royal Cork Institution, which is stated to be a chartered body, having formerly a grant from Parliament, which, however, has been latterly withdrawn; it contains a library of 12,000 volumes, which are principally scientific. There are 200 proprietors who have the privilege of reading without payment; there are also subscribers of a guinea annually, 20 of whom only make use of the books. All the books, except those of value or rarity, are allowed to circulate amongst subscribers and proprietors. These are all the libraries I can describe in the large town of Cork. The next return I have is from the town of Belfast, which contains a population of 63,000, of whom 48,000 can read and write; therefore the population may be considered as an educated population; there appears to be six libraries in the town of Belfast; the first library belonged to the Presbytery of Antrim, which is stated to have been established in the year 1765; it possesses no funds either for augmentation or preservation, except those arising from voluntary subscriptions of the members of the Presbytery, who have provided considerable sums within the last few years; it consists of 2,700 volumes of all sizes, and various languages, but chiefly of works having a theological bearing; there are also many books on physical and mental philosophy, literature, classical learning, biography, and general history. The second is what is called the Belfast Library, which is stated to be the largest public library in Belfast; was founded in 1788, and appears to be, or is stated to be, the only public collection of scientific, miscellaneous, and popular literature, accessible to the inhabitants of Belfast; it contains about 7,000 volumes, amongst which are to be found the best works in several departments, history, biography, arts, and science, and so on, together with a large well-selected assortment of reviews and periodicals; the library is open every day from ten to four in the forenoon, and from seven to nine in the evening.

3415. Is it open to every one?—Persons desirous of becoming members are admitted by ballot. They are required to pay an entrance fee and an annual subscription of one guinea. The third is the Belfast College Library, which was collected principally by the exertions of the late Dr. John Young, one of the professors. The collection appears to be miscellaneous. The fourth is the Medical Library. The fifth is the library connected with the museum, the property of the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society; and the sixth is the library connected with the academy which exists at Belfast; but none of these, I apprehend, except the Belfast Library, can be considered as at all coming within the description of a public library. There is also a small library connected with the Mechanics' Institution, and a reading room, called the People's Reading Room, in which books are taken in, and a district church library established by the Rev. Dr. Drew. The next town from which I have obtained returns is the town of Kilkenny, which contains a population of 23,000. There is there a diocesan library, founded by Bishop Otway, in the year 1693. It is maintained by the bishop and clergy, who subscribe for the purpose. By the will of the founder it appears that only the clergy of the diocese of Ossory have a right of admission. It is stated to contain about 10,000 volumes with a varied range of literature. There is another library in Kilkenny called "the Library Society," which appears to have been supported in part by bequests from a Mr. Evans of 100*l.* a year. It was founded in 1811, consists of 75 proprietors, and contains 3,500 volumes. It is also used as a reading room, and is supported by subscriptions of one guinea from each of the 75 subscribers. That sum is quite inadequate to supply the wants of the institution. The advantages of the institution are not confined to the proprietors; each proprieter has the power of admitting a nominee, free of charge, to the use of the books. I have a return also from the town of Drogheda, containing a population of 20,000, in which I am informed that the only library there is a Mechanics' Institute library, containing 200 volumes; and I am informed that the town does not support a single bookseller.

3416. Is there a corporation there?—There is. The last town from which I have obtained any returns is the town of Limerick. I hold in my hand a letter from Mr. Bindon, who has directed his attention very much to this subject, in which he states that there exists there a library in connexion with the Limerick Society, to which there is now unlimited access given to the public.

3417. Has there been any attempt to apply the Act, called the Museum Act, to the institution of a public library in Limerick?—Yes; Mr. Roche, who was some time ago Member for the City of Limerick, states in a letter I hold in my hand, that it was proposed in Limerick to establish a museum and library; and Mr. Bindon states, that Mr. Jonathan Henn, an eminent Queen's counsel in Ireland, holds, that under the Museum Act you cannot have a library in connexion with a museum, and that the funds cannot be mutually expended; that is, the funds of one cannot be expended upon the other. He suggests that it would be very desirable to have the Museum Act amended in that respect. The library connected with the city of Limerick is stated to be a very extensive library, comprising very useful and instructive publications. I have already stated, although there may be subscription libraries in other towns in Ireland, I believe that those I have enumerated constitute the largest proportion of libraries in that country, and considering the pains which have been taken to educate the large proportion of the population in many parts of Ireland who can read and write, it does appear to me that the necessity of supplying the people with the means of using their education beneficially, by the formation of libraries, is very strongly manifested.

3418. There is great advance of education and great penury of public libraries?—Quite so. In the statement I have made I have omitted the libraries in Dublin altogether, evidence having been given in respect of them by previous witnesses.

3419. In Dublin there are complaints, are there not, that the libraries are not sufficiently open in the evening?—Yes; a very intelligent gentleman, a Mr. Dowdall, states that there are in Dublin a very large class of well-educated and intelligent men, viz., the law clerks, 3,800 in number, and inasmuch as their avocations require their attendance in their office hours when the libraries in Dublin are open, they find it impossible to avail themselves of the advantages of those libraries generally, and he suggests that on that account it would be peculiarly desirable that the libraries in Dublin should be open during the evening.

3420. Does he state that the want of such advantages induced them to turn their minds to other and less harmless pursuits?—Yes, he does. He states that during the late excitement in Ireland, that class of persons took a very active part in it, and he attributes it, in some degree, to the fact of their being deprived of the opportunity of improving themselves, and of, perhaps, moderating their opinions by resorting to the libraries.

3421. Mr. *Wyld.*] Is access given to the working classes to any of those libraries in respect of which you have given evidence?—Practically, I think, they do not resort to them. I would add, it does appear to me it would be a most desirable thing, in every point of view, that libraries should be established to which the working classes might have free access.

G. A. Hamilton, Esq., M.P.

12 June 1849.

Martis, 10° *die Julii,* 1849.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Ewart.
Mr. Kershaw.
Mr. Bunbury.
Mr. Hamilton.
Mr. Wyld.

JOSEPH BROTHERTON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

William Ewart, Esq., a Member of the Committee; Examined.

W. Ewart, Esq. M.P.

10 July 1849.

3422. *Chairman.*] THE Committee understand that you have some evidence that you wish to lay before them?—I have a letter from Mr. Edwards, further explanatory of his views upon the subject of catalogues of public libraries; which appears to me to be of importance, and which I hope the Committee will allow to be appended to his evidence. (*The same was delivered in and read.*) I beg also to lay before the Committee a statement sent to me by Mr. William Chambers, the well-known publisher at Edinburgh, regarding a public library lately established at Peebles.

Vide Mr. Edwards's Evidence, 5 June, p. 243.

[*The same was read as follows:*]

STATEMENT regarding PUBLIC LIBRARY in *Peebles.*

13 June 1849.

THE advantage and public benefit derivable from a common or public library is almost universally acknowledged. It has been doubted, however, whether such institutions could be of any service in small towns, or whether it was practicable to establish them in such places. The following brief narrative will tend to show their signal importance to every community, however small.

The experiment has been tried in Peebles, a county town, with only 2,000 inhabitants. It possesses no manufactures, and consequently there is no body of workmen belonging to one trade. The artisans are of that mixed kind usually found in a small town dependent on the surrounding country district. To these may be added the young men in shops and lawyers' offices, and the occupations of the employed will be at once manifest. It is not saying too much that among these were usually to be found the supporters, to some extent, of the public-houses within the burgh. Several years ago the lawyers' clerks and young tradeslads were notorious for their disorderly and immoral conduct. Many of them had on that account to leave the place; some enlisted, others went abroad, and some were brought to a premature grave. Of the youths of that day hardly one has remained in Peebles, the master of a profession or trade, and the places in society they might have occupied have been filled by strangers. It cannot be said that these young men were more vicious or evil inclined than the youths of the present day. A great part of the cause of their unfortunate career must be discovered in the fact that they had no proper occupation for their idle time. If any institution had existed which could have afforded them the means of instruction and recreation, and of employing their spare hours to advantage, many of their perils would have been avoided, and an inducement held out to them to follow a better course.

To supply this want several individuals in 1832 started an institution for the delivery of popular lectures on various scientific subjects, which were attended by betwixt 70 and 120 members. From 1832 to 1843 seven different courses of lectures were delivered; but latterly, from the heavy expense attending the engagement of a properly qualified lecturer, and from a want of novelty in the subject matter of the lectures, a difficulty was experienced, even by those anxious for the welfare of the institution, in keeping it alive.

In 1847 the committee took the state of the institution into serious consideration. They felt that it was absurd to rail at public houses or the idle habits of the young men, without making some effort to supply a counterpoise which might operate beneficially against the allurements to evil. This was the more necessary as an agreement had become general to

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close shops and places of business at eight o'clock. It was accordingly resolved to re-model the institution, and make the library its prominent feature. In this way the library would not be dependent on the casual delivery of lectures, but be the staple branch of the institution, and kept in active operation whether a supply of lectures could be obtained or not. Regulations were accordingly prepared and submitted to a general meeting, and approved of; a copy of these is herewith produced. A body of permanent trustees, under the name of extraordinary directors, were selected from the neighbouring proprietors and other gentlemen who took an interest in the institution, and in these the property was vested for the common behoof; the management was committed to a body of ordinary directors elected annually. The members were divided into two classes, viz., 7*s.* 6*d.* a year, and 3*s.* a year. The benefits of the library were thus secured to the humblest apprentice.

Several gentlemen, among whom may be mentioned as pre-eminent the Messrs. Chambers, of Edinburgh, having come liberally forward with donations of books, the library received a fair start, and the public interest in it is gradually increasing. The number of volumes has risen from 150 to 730; the number of readers is also progressively increasing. During the summer months the number of readers is smaller than during the winter, but at present there are 55 who have out books. The number of readers during winter will be at least 70.

It is impossible to estimate the benefit which will ultimately accrue to the population from the library. There are several young men of humble parents who are educating themselves as students of divinity and as teachers, to whom such a repository of historical works and general literature must be of great service in prosecuting their studies privately. The establishment of a public library in a country district affords the means of self-instruction to such as are desirous to rise from the condition in which they may be originally placed. It affords the means also of encouraging a taste for reading, and thereby weaning the young men from many of the destructive pursuits in which, if left unoccupied in their leisure moments, they are too apt to be engaged. Their morals are improved, and they again re-act on their families and the society of the place generally, with a salutary effect. The youth who have acquired the habit of reading feel the desire strengthened by exercise, and are never found within the tavern or engaged in any of its debasing concomitants, which lead to illegitimacy and often crime.

This is well instanced in the present case. The young men are in general exemplary in their conduct. The clerks in offices present a striking contrast to their predecessors. The most of them are ardent readers, and a knot of them meet weekly for mutual instruction in the principles of their profession. They have thereby every chance of becoming useful and intelligent members of society, instead of a curse to all connected with them. Another body of young men meet periodically, and discuss literary topics and questions in ethics. In short a wholesome spirit appears to pervade the youth, which must eventually be productive of good.

To encourage an institution having such a tendency should be the desire of every good man. There is no sectarianism or political bias connected with it, but an obvious and plain practical benefit to the community. Libraries are deserving also of encouragement by the Legislature. Were the population taught to read, and then afforded facilities for reading, this, combined with other measures of an elevating nature, would discourage crime and mitigate pauperism. Every pound spent on libraries open to the working classes, would, in the long run, save two at present spent in the prosecution and punishment of criminals, and in the relief of paupers. The following suggestions are worthy of notice. An Act might be passed, authorizing the institution of public libraries; the property to be vested in the town councils of large towns, and the commissioners of supply in country districts, a committee of whom to act as extraordinary directors; the ordinary management to be vested in directors and office bearers elected annually by the readers; the extraordinary to have a seat and vote at the Board; and a report on the state of the affairs of the library to be laid before the council or county meeting annually. Advertisements connected with the library to be free from duty. Grants to be given for the erection of proper buildings, in proportion to sums raised by the districts. Copies of Government blue books, Acts of Parliament, and other national publications, to be presented to the library of each district. Power to be given to assess occupiers, if necessary, in a sum not exceeding a halfpenny or farthing per pound of real rent. This would be insignificant individually, but would amount in a county to a sum adequate to meet every contingency, combined with the annual charges against readers, which might be reduced to 1*s.* each. General regulations for management might be laid down applicable to every district, leaving necessary bye-laws to be passed by the ordinary directors, subject to the approval of the council or county meeting.

It has been said that legislation on this subject is unnecessary; that the elevation of the people ought to begin with themselves, to be effectual. It is true that any efforts for the amendment of the masses will be to a great extent inoperative, if not supported by them; but it is equally true that the initiative must be taken by those above them. The hand must be held out to them before they will attempt or be able to rise. It may rather be urged as the duty of a paternal Government to depart occasionally from the negative system pursued in this country, and render positive assistance to the people in giving them ample opportunity

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to enlarge their minds, improve their time, and become better members of society, by gratifying the inherent desire for information which exists in every man more or less, and only requires to be called into exercise to be increased and strengthened.

A most valuable branch of the plan pursued in Peebles is the public reading room. This is accessible to all, at every hour of the day, free of charge. The funds are raised by donations from well-wishers, frequenters who can afford it, and by the sale of read newspapers. On the table are to be found "The Times" daily; "The Edinburgh Advertiser," "The Scotsman," "The Caledonian Mercury," "The Manchester Guardian," twice a week; and a variety of other provincial and foreign newspapers sent by the kindness of friends. The following magazines are also read, viz.; "Blackwood," "The Dublin University," "Tait's Edinburgh," and "Chambers' Edinburgh Journal." These are all eagerly perused, and every evening after work-hours all the papers and magazines are occupied. The majority of the readers would never have had an opportunity of seeing these publications were it not for the reading room; and the taste for reading encouraged there, finds abundance of room for further development in the library. This has proved a decided antidote to the tap-room; it affords an agreeable lounge for the tradesman, where he can meet with his companions, and experience a gratification of mental excitement in the perusal of the day's intelligence, which the public-houses cannot supply. The reading-room has now been in operation nearly three years, and this year the number of applicants within the burgh for alehouse licences has been diminished by six. It is due to the philanthropy and public spirit of William Chambers, esq. to mention that the reading-room originated in a suggestion of his, and he has always been a kind patron to it.

From the result of the experiment here, a reading-room must be considered as an important and necessary adjunct to a public library; and the two combined under proper and efficient management, form undoubtedly an institution tending to the repression of vice and ignorance, the support of order and good government, and adding largely to the self-respect, comfort, and happiness of those within its sphere.

John Bathgate,
Secretary to Peebles Institution.

3423. Can you furnish the Committee with any further information?—I have also a short letter which I have received, giving an account of the establishment of farmers' libraries in Scotland; which my correspondent, an agriculturist, states have been attended with great advantage to the farmers in that part of the country.

[*The same was read as follows:*]

Commissary Clerk's Office, Dumfries,
7 July 1849.

Dear Sir,

I UNDERSTAND you are Chairman of a Committee of the House of Commons upon the subject of Public Libraries, one of very great consequence to the kingdom, not only as regards the diffusion of useful knowledge, but also as an important medium of improving the moral and industrial resources of the mass of the people.

I trust I will be excused in calling the attention of your Committee to one part of this important subject, in which I think there is open a wide field for amelioration. I allude to Agricultural Libraries. From my exercises in connexion with the provincial press, and my long and intimate acquaintance of the agricultural public, I can assure you that a strong and growing feeling prevails among this class of the utility of Farmers' libraries, more especially when associated with Farmers' clubs, properly managed and reported through the press.

Some six years ago I took part in the formation of such a library and club, in the county of Wigtown, which has been productive of much good in that county. Previously, agriculture was in a comparatively backward state, especially in what is called the Rhins of Galloway; but now I can speak in very decided terms of the improvement of husbandry there, chiefly resulting from the judicious and enlightened information introduced to the farmers through the library and club referred to. The operations of these institutions, and the improved farming of the district referred to, have been very fully and favourably noticed in the Agricultural Gazette, Mark Lane Express, &c., for several years bye-past, and some of these improvements will be found explained in a recent pamphlet published by Blackwood & Sons, of which one of the practical farmers of the county is the author.

While acting as secretary of that club and library, I had correspondence with several counties, and I have thus a knowledge of the fact that similar libraries of great utility were established in connexion with Farmers' clubs in the counties of Argyle, Lanark and Berwick. Much good has resulted from these, and I think the upper classes ought systematically to patronize and promote such means of spreading sound rural statistical and economical knowledge throughout Great Britain and Ireland.

In this county, Farmers' clubs have been formed in Langholm and Lockerbie, producing much good. Recently, as you will see from the documents enclosed, a Farmers' library has been

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been instituted in Dumfries, called the "Dumfries and Galloway Farmers' Club and Library." We expect that in a short time it will prove a model library, and lead to the formation of various district ones.

Looking to the great changes effected recently in the law relating to agricultural produce, it seems self-evident that greatly improved methods of cultivation and management must be resorted to; and I humbly submit to your Committee that every practicable encouragement should be given, in connexion with this subject, to the formation of agricultural libraries and associations, which, in a very few years, might be converted into the ready and cheap medium of obtaining the statistics of the rural and economical condition of the kingdom; a matter greatly required for public purposes.

I have, &c.

William Ewart, Esq., M.P.

Thos. Harkness.

APPENDIX.

LIST.

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Appendix, No. 1.

[PAPERS delivered in by Mr. *Edwards*.]

I.—APPROXIMATIVE STATISTICAL VIEW OF THE PRINCIPAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF EUROPE AND OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

PREFATORY NOTE ON PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN EUROPE.

Appendix, No. 1.

IN compiling the following Tables, I have relied primarily on official accounts, published or sanctioned by the officers of the respective libraries, whenever such accounts have been accessible to me, and upon the answers with which I have been favoured to a series of questions recently circulated on the Continent; next to these, upon local histories or topographies, when any such have been recently published, and are of good repute.

In respect of French libraries, I am also greatly indebted to the excellent reports of Mr. Ravaisson, Mr. Vitet, and Mr. Jubinal, addressed to the minister of public instruction; to the Memoir of Mr. Le Glay, on those of the northern departments, published in the Transactions of the Academy of Lille; to various articles in the periodical published by Mr. Techener, under the title *Bulletin du Bibliophile;* and to the elaborate table in Mr. Le Bas's *Dictionnaire Encyclopédique de la France.* This table, by no means free from error, but still very useful, has been translated with some additions (which I have not omitted to examine), in Dr. Naumann's *Serapeum;* and has thence been transferred to Meyer's *Grosse Conversations-Lexicon*, now in course of publication, and the article "Bibliotheken" in which is probably the best general view of the subject yet extant.

As respects German libraries, I have made considerable use of the article entitled "*Verzeichniss der wichtigsten Bibliotheken Deutschlands*, in the *Bibliopolisches Jahrbuch* of 1841;

of Dr. Petzholdt's *Adressbuch deutscher Bibliotheken*, and of his *Anzeiger der Bibliothekswissenschaft;* of many valuable articles in the *Serapeum* above mentioned; and of the late Mr. Constantine Hesse's *Essai d'une Statistique des Bibliothèques, dans l'Etranger*, published at Paris in 1840. This essay appears to have been compiled with much research and discretion, and is singularly free from that exaggeration of numbers, so observable in most works which treat of this subject. I have also consulted an article on some German libraries, contributed by Professor Adrien, of Giessen, to the *Statistical Journal* of April 1841.

As respects Belgian libraries, I am much indebted to Mr. Voisin's *Documens pour servir à l'histoire des Bibliothèques en Belgique,* which I have occasionally compared with the *Histoire des Bibliothèques Publiques de la Belgique,* (Brussels, 1840) by Mr. Namur.

As respects the libraries of Italy, I have consulted Mr. Serristori's *Statistica dell' Italia*, and Mr. Valery's very useful *Voyages Historiques Artistiques et Littéraries.* On Spanish and Portuguese libraries I have found much information in Dr. Gustav Heïne's *Bericht ueber seine litterarische Reise in Spanien,* lately published in the *Serapeum,* and in the article by Mr. Wittich, entitled "*Bibliotheken Portugals,*" in Zimmermann's *Zeitschrift fuer Alterthuemswissenschaft.*

As respects Hungarian and Bohemian libraries, I am indebted to the *Neueste Beschreibung des Koenigreichs Ungarn,* and to the work of Mr. Hesse. As respects those of Russia, to several official reports published in the *Serapeum* at various and recent times; and as respects the libraries of Denmark and Sweden, chiefly to Mr. Hesse.

The statements respecting British and Irish libraries are made, either from personal knowledge or from the best answers I could obtain to careful inquiries.

In addition to obligations formerly acknowledged, I gladly avail myself of this opportunity of recording my grateful thanks for most valuable assistance to Professor Adrien, chief librarian of Giessen University; to Professor Adert, of Geneva; to Professor Baehr, chief librarian of the University Library of Heidelberg; to Dr. Boehmer, librarian of the Town Library of Frankfort; to Professor Chastel of Geneva; to Professor J. C. Doell, chief librarian of the Ducal Library of Carlsruhe; to Dr. Hoeck, chief librarian of the University of Goettingen; to Dr. F. L. Hoffmann of Hamburgh; to Baron Lichtenthaler, chief librarian of the Royal and Central Library of Munich; to Dr. Pertz, chief librarian of the Royal Library of Berlin; to the Rev. Dr. William Brown, of Edinburgh; to Rev. Henry Christmas, M. A., librarian of Sion College, London; to John Cruickshank, Esq., LL. D., Professor of Mathematics in Marischal College, Aberdeen; to Edward Clibborn, Esq. secretary of the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin; to Edward Hoare, Esq. of Cork; to Thomas Harvey, Esq. of Geneva; to John Imray, Esq. M. A.; to Thomas Jones, Esq., librarian of Chetham's Library, Manchester; to the Rev. J. Macbean, librarian of the University of St. Andrews; to W. J. Macculloch, Esq. of Edinburgh; to J. Herbert Marsh, Esq. of Warrington; to Robert Reid, Esq. of Glasgow; to the Rev. A. Sillery of Dublin; to the Rev. J. J. Smith, fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge; to the Rev. Henry James Todd, D.D., librarian of Trinity College, Dublin, and to Robert Travers, Esq. M. A., M. D., assistant librarian of Archbishop Marsh's library, Dublin.

Although attaching great importance to the comparison of the extent and growth of libraries, at different periods, as an indispensable element in any computation of their relative value, I have not been able to institute this comparison so often as I have wished to do. In many cases the necessary information appears to be quite unattainable.

The elaborate article by Ebert, in the *Cyclopædie* of Ersch and Grueber, is the first statistical view of existing libraries to be at all relied upon for general accuracy with which I am acquainted. It is now about a quarter of a century since that article was written. Next to this may perhaps be placed the valuable treatise of Mr. Balbi, entitled "*Essai Statistique sur les Bibliothèques de Vienne, comparées aux plus grands Etablissemens de ce genre,*" &c. published in 1835, and his *Tableaux Statistiques sur les Bibliothèques Anciennes et Modernes,* published in the Transactions of the French Statistical Society, in 1836.

In the year last named, the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons, to inquire into the condition and management of the British Museum, led to the collection, by our ambassadors and ministers abroad, of a variety of official returns and documents, illustrative of similar establishments in other countries, which were published in the Appendices to the Reports of that Committee in 1836 and 1837.

It is chiefly from a collation of the information thus collected that I have endeavoured, in respect of the larger European libraries, to show their numerical extent, some twelve years ago, namely, about the year 1836, as contrasted with their extent, or presumed extent, at the present time. I cannot, in either case, hope that I have not committed many errors. Those, however, who are best acquainted with the difficulties which beset inquiries of this nature, will regard these errors with some indulgence, and for any information tending to their correction, I shall at all times be very thankful.

London, 19 April 1849. *Edward Edwards.*

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1. EUROPE

1. EUROPE.

*** The Libraries marked thus (*) are Lending Libraries.

—	Names of the Cities or Towns, the States to which they belong, and their Libraries.	Date of the Foundation of Library.	Population of City or Town.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books. In 1836.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books. In 1848.	Number of Volumes of MSS., 1848.
1	AARAU.—*Switzerland*		3,100			
	Cantonal Library *	1804			60,000 (*a*)	1,200
2	ABBEVILLE.—*France*		13,842			
	Town Library	1685		10,000 (*b*)	13,000 (*c*)	
3	ABERDEEN.—*Great Britain and Ireland*		64,778			
	1. King's College Library			18,000 (*d*)	34,000 (*e*)	
	2. Marischal College Library			11,000 (*d*)	12,000 (*e*)	
			TOTAL	29,000	46 000	
4	ABO.—*Russian Empire*		13,000?			
	University Library	1640			20,000 (*f*)	
5	ADMONT.—*Austrian States.*					
	Library of Benedictine Monastery				25,000 (*g*)	
6	AGEN.—*France*		12,851			
	Town Library				12,000 (*c*)	
7	AIX.—*France*		18,240			
	Mejanes Public Library				80,000 (*c*)	1,100
8	AIX-LA-CHAPELLE.—*Prussian States*		38,383			
	Town Library				10,000 (*h*)	
9	AJACCIO.—*France*		9,003			
	Town Library				140,000 ? (*c*)	
10	ALBY.—*France*		9,367			
	Town Library				12,000 (*c*)	
11	ALCOBAÇA.—*Spain*		1,716			
	Library of Monastery of St. Bernard			25,000 (*i*)	25,000 ?	476
12	ALENÇON.—*France*		13,277			
	Town Library				10,000 (*k*)	120
13	ALEXANDRIA.—*Sardinia and Piedmont*		36,000			
	Town Library			15,000 (*l*)	15,000 ?	
14	ALTONA.—*Denmark*		26,400			
	Gymnasium Library	1727			20,000 (*f*)	
15	ALTENBURG.—*Saxe Coburg Gotha*		12,629			
	Gymnasium Library	1846			15,000 (*g*)	
16	AMBERG.—*Bavaria*		8,000			
	Palatinate Provincial Library *	1805			28,000 (*g*)	125
17	AMIENS.—*France*		32,391			
	1. Town Library	1791			50,000 ? (*m*)	570 ?
	2. Seminary Library				4,000	
				TOTAL	54,000	
18	AMSTERDAM.—*Holland*		207,000			
	Public Library				16,000 ?	
19	ANGERS.—*France*		29,066			
	Town Library				25,000 (*n*)	

(*a*) Kurz and Weissenbach, *Beiträge zur Geschichte der Stadt Aarau* (1846), pp. 107 et seq.

(*b*) Louandre, *Histoire d'Abbeville*, p. 584.

(*c*) Le Bas, *Dictionnaire Encyclopédique de la France*, tom. ii. p. 529. Comp. translation with additions, in *Serapeum*, Bd. iv. pp. 332–348. As to Aix, comp. Rouard, *Notice sur la Bibliothèque d'Aix.*

(*d*) Brown, Article *Libraries* in *Encyclopædia Brittanica*, 7th edit. xiii. 298.

(*e*) Private information; Dr. Cruickshank, of Marischal College. Comp. *Report of Select Committee on Scottish Universities* (1832), 381, &c.

(*f*) Constantin (Hesse), *Essai d'une Statistique Générale des Bibliothèques Publiques, dans l'Etranger.*

(*g*) Petzholdt, *Adressbuch deutscher Bibliotheken*, Dritte Auflage (1848). As to Admont, comp. Turnbull's *Austria*, i. 171.

(*h*) Macculloch, *Dictionary, Geographical*, &c., new edition.

(*i*) Haenel, *Catalogi Librorum MSS. qui in Bibl. Galliæ . . . . . asservantur.*

(*k*) Ravaisson, *Rapports au Ministre de l'Instruction Publique sur les Bibliothèques des Départements de l'Ouest.*

(*l*) Communications from H. M. Ministers abroad respecting libraries in foreign countries, in Appendix to *Report of Select Committee on the British Museum*, 1835, 1836. (Sess. Papers, 457. 325.)

(*m*) Garnier, *Catalogue des Manuscrits de la Bibliothèque Communale d'Amiens*, (1843), p. 1.

(*n*) Ravaisson, ut supra. Comp. Beauregard, *Statistiquo du Département de Maine et Loire*, 128.

—	Names of the Cities or Towns, the States to which they belong, and their Libraries.	Date of the Foundation of Library.	Population of City or Town.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books. In 1836.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books. In 1848.	Number of Volumes of MSS., 1848.
20	ANGOULEME.—*France*	- -	16,530			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	16,000 (*a*)	
21	ANSPACH.—*Bavaria*	- -	16,500			
	1. Government Library 2. Castle Library 3. Library of Historical Society	- -	- -	- - -	19,000 ?	
22	ANTWERP.—*Belgium*	- -	75,362			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	15,000 (*b*)	26
23	AREZZO.—*Tuscany*	- -	10,000			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 (*c*)	
24	ARMAGH.—*Ireland*	- -	10,500			
	Primate Robinson's Library	1771	- -	- - -	12,500 (*d*)	
25	AROLSEN.—*Waldeck Pyrmont*	- -	1,500			
	Palace Library *	- -	- -	- - -	30,000 (*e*)	
26	ARRAS.—*France*	- -	23,485			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	48,000 (*a*)	1,000
27	ASCHAFFENBURG.—*Bavaria*	- -	7,000			
	1. Royal Library *	1802	- -	- - -	24,000 ? (*e*)	
	2. Lyceum Library	- -	- -	- - -	16,000 ? (*e*)	
				TOTAL - -	40,000	
28	AUGSBURG.—*Bavaria*	- -	35,000			
	Town Library	1537	- -	- - -	24,000 (*f*)	400
29	AUXERRE.—*France*	- -	10,989			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	30,000 (*g*)	200
30	AVIGNON.—*France*	- -	27,773			
	Calvet Museum Library	- -	- -	- - -	35,000 (*h*)	800
31	AVRANCHES.—*France*	- -	7,690			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 (*i*)	
32	BAMBERG.—*Bavaria*	- -	21,000			
	Town Library *	1803	- -	- - -	62,500 (*e*)	2,600
33	BARCELONA.—*Spain*	- -	120,000			
	1. Saint Dominic's Library	- -	- -	- - -	20,000 ? (*k*)	
	2. Episcopal Library	- -	- -	- - -	15,000 ? (*k*)	
	3. Marian Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 ? (*k*)	
				TOTAL - -	45,000	
34	BASEL.—*Switzerland*	- -	24,321			
	University Library	1564	- -	- - -	70,000 (*b*)	5,200
35	BAYREUTH.—*Bavaria*	- -	14,000			
	1. Chancery Library	1736	- -	- - -	14,000 ? (*e*)	
	2. Circle Library	- -	- -	- - -	11,000 ?	
				TOTAL - -	25,000 ?	
36	BEAUCAIRE.—*France*	- -	9,600			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	14,000 (*l*)	
37	BEAUNE.—*France*	- -	9,958			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 (*a*)	110
38	BEAUVAIS.—*France*	- -	13,082			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	11,000 ?	
39	BERGAMO.—*Lombardy and Venice*	- -	30,500			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	45,000 (*c*)	
40	BERLIN.—*Prussian States*	- -	290,797			
	1 Royal Library *	1650	- -	320,000	410,000 (*m*)	5,000
	2. University Library	- -	- -	- - -	50,000 ? (*n*)	
				TOTAL - -	460,000	5,000

(*a*) Le Bas, ut. supr.

(*b*) Constantin, ut supr.

(*c*) Valery, *Voyages historiques, littéraires et artistiques en Italie.*

(*d*) Private information; R. Travers, esq. M.D., Assistant Librarian of Marsh's Library, Dublin.

(*e*) Petzholdt, ut supr. As to Bamberg, comp. Jaeck, in *Serapeum*, ii. 96.

(*f*) See Metzger, *Geschichte der Kreise und Stadtbibliothek zu Augsburg* (1842). Comp. Constantin (Hesse), ut supr.

(*g*) See *Bulletin du Bibliophile*, May 1845, p. 184. "Une collection où sont reunis une foule d'ouvrages qu'il faudrait payer au poids de l'or."

(*h*) Ibid. August 1845, p. 355.

(*i*) Ravaisson, ut supr.

(*k*) Haenel, ut supr.

(*l*) Macculloch. *Dict. of Geogr.* new edition.

(*m*) Private information; Dr. Pertz, Chief Librarian. Comp. *Anzeiger der Bibliothekswissenschaft*, Jahrgang 1845; herausg. von. J. Petzholdt; Meyer, *Das grosse Conversations Lexicon* (1846), art. *Bibliotheken.*

(*n*) Petzholdt, *Adressbuch*, &c., ut supr.

	Names of the Cities and Towns, the States to which they belong, or their Libraries.	Date of the Foundation of Library.	Population of City or Town.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books. In 1836.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books. In 1848.	Number of Volumes of MSS., 1848.
41	BERNE.—*Switzerland*	- -	20,500			
	Town Library *	1540	- -	35,000 (*a*)	40,000 ? (*b*)	2,000(*c*)
42	BESANÇON.—*France*	- -	24,720			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	60,000 (*d*)	859
43	BLOIS.—*France*	- -	11,423			
	Public Library	- -	- -	- - -	20,000 (*d*)	12
44	BOLOGNA.—*States of the Church*	- -	69,000			
	1. University Library	1690	- -	- - -	150,000 (*e*)	400
	2. Magnani Library	- -	- -	- - -	83,000 (*e*)	
				TOTAL - -	233,000	400
45	BONN.—*Prussian States*	- -	13,000			
	University Library	1818	- -	- - -	100,000 ? (*c*)	230
46	BORDEAUX.—*France*	- -	95,114			
	Town Library	1738	- -	- - -	110,000 (*d*)	150
47	BOULOGNE.—*France*	- -	25,732			
	Central Library	- -	- -	- - -	21,000 (*f*)	166
48	BOURG.—*France*	- -	8,818			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	17,000 (*d*)	
49	BOURGES.—*France*	- -	19,646			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	20,000 (*d*)	357
50	BREMEN	- -	42,000			
	1. Town Library	1636	- -	- - -	20,000 ? (*c*)	
	2. Museum Library	1822	- -	- - -	16,000 (*g*)	
				TOTAL - -	36,000	
51	BRESCIA.—*Lombardy and Venice*	- -	35,000			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	28,000 (*e*)	
52	BRESLAU.—*Prussian States*	- -	88,869			
	1. University Library *	1811	- -	200,000 (*h*)	320,000 (*c*)	2,300
	2. Rehdiger Library	1598	- -	- - -	20,000 (*c*)	
	3. Bernardine Library	1680	- -	- - -	10,000 (*c*)	
	4. St. Mary Magdalen Library [Public since 1644.]	1547	- -	- - -	20,000 (*g*)	
				TOTAL - -	370,000 ?	
53	BREST.—*France*	- -	29,773			
	Naval Library	1752	- -	- - -	20,000 ? (*i*)	
54	BRUGES.—*Belgium*	- -	44,374			
	Town Library	1797	- -	- - -	10,000 (*k*)	626
54(^{2})	BRUNN.—*Austrian States*	- -	38,000			
	Library of the Estates	- -	- -	- - -	30,000 (*c*)	
55	BRUSSELS.—*Belgium*	- -	134,000			
	1. Royal Library	1839	- -	- - -	133,500 (*l*)	18,000
	2. Parochial Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000	
				TOTAL - -	143,500	18,000
56	BUDA-PESTH.—*Hungary*	- -	106,000			
	1. University Library	1792	- -	65,000 ? (*m*)	50,000 (*c*)	
	2. Szechenyi Library, or Library of the National Museum	1802	- -	18,000 (*m*)	18,000 ?	
				TOTAL - -	68,000	
57	CAEN.—*France*	- -	39,886			
	Town Library	141	- -	- - -	30,000 (*n*)	174

(*a*) Haenel, ut supr.

(*b*) Constantin, ut supr.

(*c*) Petzholdt, ut supr. With respect to Breslau, comp. Fischer, *Geschichte von Breslau*, (1846), 123.

(*d*) Le Bas, ut supr.

(*e*) Valery, ut supr.

(*f*) Comp. Vitet, *Rapport sur les Bibliothèques, les Archives, et les Musées des Départements de l'Oise*, &c. &c. (1831), p. 93.

(*g*) Comp. Meyer, ubi supr.

(*h*) Wachter, *Handbuch der Geschichte der Literatur*, 3e Umarb. iii. 91.

(*i*) See *Catalogue Général des Bibliothèques de la Marine*, tom. v. pref.

(*k*) Voisin, *Documents pour servir à l' Histoire des Bibliothèques en Belgique*. Comp. Namur, *Histoire des Bibliothèques en Belgique*.

(*l*) De Reiffenberg, *Annuaire de la Bibliothèque Royale de Bruxelles*. Années 1842–1848.

(*m*) *Neueste Beschreibung des Königreichs Ungarn*, &c.

(*n*) Ravaisson, ut supr. Comp. Marcel, *Notice sur la Bibliothèque de Caen*, 12, 13, sqq.

—	Names of the Cities or Towns, the States to which they belong, and their Libraries.	Date of the Foundation of Library.	Population of City or Town.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books. In 1836.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books. In 1848.	Number of Volumes of MSS., 1848.
58	CAGLIARI.—*Sardinia and Piedmont*	-	26,000			
	Town Library	-	-	-	17,000 (*a*)	
	[Public since 1792.]					
59	CAHORS.—*France*	-	10,944			
	Town Library	-	-	-	12,000 (*b*)	
60	CAMBRAY.—France	-	17,846			
	Communal Library	1791	-	-	32,550 (*c*)	1,246
61	CAMBRIDGE.—*Great Britain, &c.*	-	25,000			
	1. Public Library	1484	-	100,000 (?)	166,724 (*d*)	3,163
	2. Queen's College Library	1448?	-	-	35,000?	
	3. Trinity College Library	-	-	-	30,000?	
	4. Catherine Hall Library	-	-	-	20,000?	
	5. Christ's College Library	-	-	-	10,000?	
				TOTAL	261,724?	3,163
62	CARCASSONE.—*France*	-	14,931			
	Town Library	-	-	-	20,000 (*b*)	
63	CARLSBURG.—*Austrian States*	-	11,300			
	Public Library	1798	-	-	25,000 (*e*)	
64	CARLSRUHE.—*Baden*	-	20,500			
	Granducal Library *	1756	-	-	80,300 (*f*)	1,000
65	CARPENTRAS.—*France*	-	9,244			
	Town Library	1745	-	-	25,000 (*b*)	800
66	CASSEL.—*Hesse*	-	31,000			
	Granducal Library	1700	-	85,000?	70,000 (*e*)	400
	[Originally founded 1580.]					
67	CATANIA.—*Sicily*	-	52,453			
	Town Library	-	-	-	15,000 (*g*)	
68	CHALONS-SUR-MARNE.—*France*	-	12,930			
	Town Library	1800	-	-	23,000 (*h*)	60
69	CHALONS-SUR-SAONE.—*France*	-	12,400			
	Town Library	-	-	-	10,000 (*b*)	36
70	CHARKOFF.—*Russian Empire*	-	13,000			
	University Library	-	-	-	30,000 (*i*)	
71	CHARLEVILLE.—*France*	-	8,878			
	Town Library	-	-	-	22,000 (*b*)	200
	CHARTRES.—*France*	-	14,431			
	Town Library	-	-	-	40,000 (*b*)	800
73	CHAUMONT.—*France*	-	6,113			
	Town Library	-	-	-	35,000 (*b*)	47
74	CHRISTIANA.—*Sweden and Norway*	-	23,121			
	University Library	1811	-	-	50,000 (*a*)	
75	CLERMONT-FERRAND.—*France*	-	32,427			
	Town Library	-	-	-	10,000 (*b*)	150?
76	COBLENTZ.—*Prussian States*	-	13,700			
	Gymnasium Library	1827	-	-	12,000 (*e*)	
77	COBURG.—*Saxe Coburg Gotha*	-	9,076			
	1. Ducal Library	1702	-	-	55,000 (*e*)	
	2. Scheres-Zieritz Library	1704?	-	-	20,000	
	[3. *Gymnasium Library*	1690?	-	-	7,000]	
				TOTAL	82,000	
78	COIMBRA.—*Portugal*	-	20,000			
	University Library	-	-	-	38,000? (*k*)	

(*a*) Constantin, ut supr. As to Cagliari, comp. Martini, *Sulla Biblioteca della Regia Università di Cagliari* (1845), 17.

(*b*) Le Bas, ut supr.

(*c*) Demeunynck and Devaux, *Annuaire Statistique du Departement du Nord* (1846), pp. 123, 124. Comp. Le Glay, *Memoire sur les Bibliothèques Publiques du Nord* (1839).

(*d*) Parliamentary Returns of 1849. (Sessional Paper, 18.)

(*e*) Petzholdt, ut supr. As to Coburg, comp. Waitz in *Archiv. für ältere deutsche Geschichtskunde*, viii. 265.

(*f*) Private information; Professor J. C. Doell, Chief Librarian.

(*g*) Serristori, *Statistica dell' Italia*, 2da ediz. (Dec. 1842.)

(*h*) Chalette, *Précis de la Statistique du Département de la Marne* (1845), i. 365.

(*i*) Russian Official Reports, in *Serapeum*, i. 72; ii. 140; viii. (August 1847.)

(*k*) Heine, *Berichte über seine litterarische Reise in Spanien*, in *Serapeum*, vii. 193–200 (1846); and viii. 81–95 (1847).

	Names of the Cities or Towns, the States to which they belong, and their Libraries.	Date of the Foundation of Library.	Population of City or Town.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books. In 1836.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books. In 1848.	Number of Volumes of MSS., 1848.
79	COLMAR.—*France*	- -	13,867			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	36,000 (*a*)	149
80	COLOGNE.—*Prussian States*	- -	66,179			
	1. Gymnasium Library	- -	- -	- - -	63,000 (*b*)	
	2. Seminary Library *	- -	- -	- - -	17,000 (*b*)	
	3. Cathedral Library *	- -	- -	- - -	15,000 (*b*)	
	4. Wallraf's Library *	- -	- -	- - -	14,300 (*b*)	521
				TOTAL - -	109,300	
81	COMO.—*Lombardy and Venice*	- -	15,600			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 (*c*)	
82	CONSTANCE.—*Baden*	- -	6,230			
	Lyceum Library*	- -	- -	- - -	14,000	70
83	COPENHAGEN.—*Denmark*	- -	119,292			
	1. Great Royal Library * [Public since 1793.]	1550?	- -	400,000 (*d*)	412,000 (*e*)	3,000
	2. University Library *	1730?	- -	110,000 (*d*)	110,000 ?	
	3. Classen's Library *	- -	- -	35,000 (*d*)	35,000 ?	
				TOTAL - -	557,000	3,000
84	CORDOVA.—*Spain*	- -	46,750			
	Episcopal Library	- -	- -	- - -	11,000 (*f*)	
85	CORUNNA.—*Spain*	- -	22,500			
	University Library	- -	- -	17,300 (*d*)	17,300 ?	
86	COURTRAY.—*Belgium*	- -	19,124			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	12,000 (*g*)	300
87	CRACOW.—*Cracow*	- -	37,000			
	1. Jagellon University Library	1364	- -	- - -	42,000 (*h*)	2,210
	2. Dominican Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000	
				TOTAL - -	52,000	2,210
88	DANTZICK.—*Prussian States*	- -	56,257			
	Public Library	1580	- -	- - -	30,000 (*c*)	
89	DARMSTADT.—*Hesse Darmstadt*	- -	23,000			
	Granducal Library *	1760	- -	- - -	200,000 (*e*)	4,000
90	DEBRECZIN.—*Hungary*	- -	45,730			
	Seminary Library	- -	- -	- - -	20,000 (*c*)	
91	DESSAU.—*Anhalt*	- -	11,749			
	Ducal Public Library	1819	- -	- - -	20,000 (*c*)	
92	DETMOLD.—*Lippe Detmold*	- -	2,500			
	Public Library *	1824	- -	- - -	21,500 (*c*)	100
93	DIJON.—*France*	- -	24,344			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	48,000 (*i*)	570
94	DOLE.—*France*	- -	7,843			
	Town Library	1796 ?	- -	- - -	17,620 (*k*)	
95	DORPAT.—*Russian Empire*	- -	9,500			
	University Library	- -	- -	- - -	67,000 ? (*l*)	
96	DOUAY.—*France*	- -	18,890			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	30,000 (*m*)	780
97	DRESDEN.—*Saxony*	- -	69,500			
	1. Royal Library *	1556	- -	290,000 ? (*d*)	300,000 ? (*n*)	2,800
	2. Secundogenitur Library *	- -	- -	- - -	30,000 (*n*)	250
	[3. *Library of Economical Society* *	- -	- -	- - -	7,500 (*n*)]	
	[4. *Library of Polytechnic Institute*	- -	- -	- - -	3,000 (*n*)]	
				TOTAL - -	340,500	3,050

(*a*) Le Bas, ut supr. (*b*) *Bibliopolisches Jahrbuch* für 1841.

(*c*) Petzholdt, ut supr.

(*d*) *Report on British Museum*, ut supr.

(*e*) Werlauff, *Historiske Efteretninger om det store kongelige Bibliothek*, &c. (2d edition), pp. 338, sqq. Comp. Constantin (Hesse), ut supr.; *Notice Historique sur la Bibliothèque Royale de Copenhague* 1844); and Dehn, *Seeland und die Seeländer*, (1845), 86.

(*f*) Heine, *Berichte über seine litterarische Reise in Spanien*, in *Serapeum*, vii. 193-200 (1846); and viii. 81-95 (1847).

(*g*) Voisin, ut supr.

(*h*) *Die Stadt Krakau, ... ein Geleitbuch*, etc. (1846), 69.

(*i*) Goussard, *Noureau Guide du Voyageur à Dijon* (1845), 205.

(*k*) Marquiset, *Statistique de Dôle*, i. 252.

(*l*) Russian Reports, in *Serapeum*, ubi supr.

(*m*) Demeunynck et Devaux, *Annuaire Statistique du Department du Nord*, (1846), 123, 124; Comp. Le Glay, *Mémoire sur les Bibliothèques Publiques du Nord.*

(*n*) Petzholdt, *Dresdens Bibliotheken*, 82.

—	Names of the Cities or Towns, the States to which they belong, and their Libraries.	Date of the Foundation of Library.	Population of City or Town.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books.		Number of Volumes of MSS., 1848.
				In 1836.	In 1848.	
98	DUBLIN.—*Ireland* - - - - -	- -	238,531			
	1. Trinity College Library - - -	1601	- -	90,000 ? (*a*)	104,239 (*a*)	1,512
	2. Marsh's Library - - - - -	1697	- -	16,800	17,600 (*b*)	193
	3. Dublin Society's Library - - -	1731	- -	10,500 (*a*)	12,000 ? (*b*)	
	[4. *Royal Irish Academy Library* - -	1787	- -	9,000?	9,815 (*c*)]	459
		TOTAL - -		126,300	143,654	2,164
	5. King's Inns Library - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	31,000	150
	[This library does not appear to be accessible to the public, although it enjoys a Treasury grant of 433 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.* a year, in compensation for the loss of its former privilege under the Copyright Act.]					
99	DUSSELDORF.—*Prussian States* - -	- -	33,137			
	Town Library - - - - - -	1770	- -	- - -	32,000	
100	EDINBURGH.—*Great Britain and Ireland*	- -	138,182			
	1. Library of Faculty of Advocates - -	1682	- -	130,000 ? (*d*)	148,000 (*e*)	2,000
	2. University Library - - - - -	1582	- -	90,000 ? (*d*)	90,854 (*e*)	310
	3. Library to Writers to Signet - -	- -	- -	50,000 ? (*d*)	50,000 ?	
		TOTAL - -		270,000	288,854	2,310
101	EINSIEDELN.—*Switzerland* - - -	- -	7,000?			
	Town Library - - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	21,800 (*f*)	840
102	ELBING.—*Prussian States* - - -	- -	18,275			
	Town Library - - - - - -	1599	- -	- - -	19,000 (*g*)	190
103	EPERNAY.—*France* - - - - -	- -	5,444			
	Town Library - - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 (*h*)	
104	EPINAL.—*France* - - - - -	- -	8,742			
	Town Library - - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	17,000 (*h*)	
105	ERFURT.—*Prussian States* - - -	- -	24,308			
	1. Royal Library - - - - -	1717	- -	- - -	40,000 (*g*)	970
	2. *Synod Library*] - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	3,000]	
				TOTAL - -	43,000	970
106	ERLANGEN.—*Bavaria* - - - -	- -	8,800			
	University Library - - - - -	1743	- -	- - -	100,000 (*g*)	1,000 ?
107	ESCURIAL.—*Spain* - - - - -	—				
	Royal Library - - - - - -	1583	- -	- - -	100,000 ? (*i*)	3,700
108	EVORA.—*Portugal* - - - - -	- -	12,000			
	Town Library - - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	40,000 ? (*k*)	
109	EVREUX.—*France* - - - - -	- -	7,852			
	Town Library - - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 (*h*)	
110	FERRARA.—*States of the Church* - -	- -	25,000			
	Town Library - - - - - - [Public since 1740.]	1546	- -	- - -	80,000 (*l*)	900
111	FLÊCHE (LA).—*France* - - - -	- -	5,833			
	Town Library - - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	20,000 (*g*)	
112	FLORENCE.—*Tuscany* - - - -	- -	97,548			
	1. Magliabecchian Library - - - [Public since 1747.]	1714	- -	150,000 (*m*)	150,000 (*l*)	12,000
	2. Palatine Library - - - - -	- -	- -	70,000 (*m*)	70,000 ? (*l*)	1,600
	3. Marucellian Library - - - -	- -	- -	40,000 ? (*m*)	45,000 ? (*l*)	
	4. Riccardian Library - - - - [Public since 1811.]	1558	- -	20,000 ? (*m*)	23,000 ? (*l*)	3,500
	5. Laurentian Library - - - - [Public since 1571.]	1444	- -	- - -	- - -	9,000
	6. Library of the Fine Arts - - -	- -	- -	11,000 (*m*)	11,000 ? (*l*)	
		TOTAL - -		291,000	299,000	24,500
113	FONTAINEBLEAU.—*France* - - -	- -	9,000			
	Royal Library - - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	40,000 (*n*)	

(*a*) Private information; Rev. Dr. Todd, Librarian of Trinity College.

(*b*) Private information; Dr. Travers, Assistant Librarian of Marsh's Library.

(*c*) Private information; E. Clibborn, Esq., Secretary of Royal Irish Academy. See also *Report from Select Committee on Royal Dublin Society*, p. 352, § 3490.

(*d*) Comp. Brown, ut supr.

(*e*) Parliamentary Returns of 1849, ut supr.

(*f*) *Serapeum*, iii., 351, 352,

(*g*) Petzholdt, *Adressbuch deutscher Bibliotheken*. As to Erfurt, comp. Waitz, in *Archiv*, &c. ut supr., 269

(*h*) Le Bas, ut supr.

(*i*) Meyer, ut supr. Comp. Ximenes, *Descr. del real Monasterio del Escorial*, 185, sqq.; and the article *Bibliotheken* in Ersch and Grueber (1823) sqq.

(*k*) Heine, ut supr.

(*l*) Valery, ut supr. As to Florence, comp. *Notizie e guida de Firenze*. [Official] 2^{da} ediz. 171–175.

(*m*) *Report on British Museum*, ut supr.

(*n*) Known, under Napoleon, as the *Bibliothèque du Conseil d' Etat*, after the fall of the Empire removed to Fontainebleau, and since enlarged, There is an excellent catalogue of it, before its removal, by Barbier, then its librarian, some of whose correspondence in that capacity with the Emperor has been recently published in the *Bulletin du Bibliophile*.

	Names of the Cities or Towns, the States to which they belong, or their Libraries.	Date of the Foundation of Library.	Population of City or Town.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books.		Number of Volumes of MSS., 1848.
				In 1836.	In 1848.	
114	FRANEKER.—*Holland*	- -	3,900			
	University Library	1590	- -	12,200	13,000 ?	
115	FRANKFORT-ON-MAINE	- -	66,244			
	Town Library *	1484	- -	50,000	62,000 (*a*)	550
116	FRIBOURG.—*Baden*	- -	12,200			
	University Library	1773	- -	70,000 (*b*)	90,000 ? (*c*)	300
117	FULDA.—*Hesse*	- -	10,000			
	Town Library	1775	- -	- - -	30,000 ? (*d*)	
118	GENEVA.—*Switzerland*	- -	28,000			
	Town Library	1551	- -	32,000 (*e*)	46,000 (*f*)	200
119	GENOA.—*Sardinia and Piedmont*	- -	97,620			
	1. University Library	- -	- -	45,000 (*g*)	45,000 ? (*h*)	1,000
	2. Berian Library	- -	- -	- - -	15,000 (*h*)	1,500
	3. Franzonian Library	- -	- -	- - -	30,000 (*c*)	
	4. Library of Missionaries of St. Charles	- -	- -	- - -	30,000 (*c*)	
			TOTAL - -	- - -	120,000	2,500
120	GHENT.—*Belgium*	- -	88,290			
	University Library	1750 ?	- -	- - -	51,600	556
121	GIESSEN.—*Hesse Darmstadt*	- -	7,300			
	University Library *	1670	- -	- - -	80,000 (*i*)	1,268
122	GLASGOW.—*Great Britain*	- -	300,000			
	1. University Library	1473	- -	30,000	58,096 (*k*)	242
	2. Hunterian Museum Library	1781	- -	- - -	12,000 ?	
	3. Stirling's Library	1791	- -	- - -	10,000 (*l*)	
			TOTAL - -	- - -	80,096	242
123	GLEIWITZ.—*Prussian States*	- -	6,500			
	Gymnasium Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 (*d*)	
124	GLOGAU.—*Prussian States*	- -	11,646			
	Gymnasium Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 (*d*)	
125	GOERLITZ.—*Prussian States*	- -	13,670			
	1. Gymnassium Library *	1727	- -	- - -	13,000 ? (*d*)	300
	2. Public Library of the Academy of Sciences *	- -	- -	- - -	32,000 (*d*)	450
			TOTAL - -	- - -	45,000	750
126	GOETTINGEN.—*Hanover*	- -	10,900			
	University Library *	1736	- -	300,000	350,000 ? (*m*)	3,000
127	GOTHA.—*Saxe Coburg Gotha*	- -	13,874			
	Ducal Library *	1647 ? or 1694 ?	- -	110,000 (*n*)	150,000 ? (*d*)	5,000
128	GOTTWIEH.—*Austrian States.*					
	Benedictine Convent Library	1718	- -	- - -	40,000 (*d*)	700
129	GRAETZ.—*Austrian States*	- -	39,772			
	1. University Library	- -	- -	- - -	42,000 (*o*)	2,000
	2. Johanneum Library	1826	- -	- - -	31,000 (*o*)	
			TOTAL - -	- - -	73,000	2,000
130	GREIFSWALD.—*Prussian States*	- -	10,291			
	1. University Library *	1604	- -	- - -	49,750 (*d*)	
	2. [*Judicial Library*	1786	- -	- - -	5,100]	
				TOTAL - -	54,850	
131	GRENOBLE.—*France*	- -	26,000			
	Town Library	1771	- -	- - -	50,000 (*p*)	1,200
132	GUASTALLA.—*Parma*	- -	5,500 ?			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	12,000 (*q*)	

(*a*) Private information; Dr. Boehmer, Chief Librarian.

(*b*) Ebert, art. *Bibliotheken*, in the Encyclopædia of Ersch and Grueber.

(*c*) Constantin, ut supr.

(*d*) Petzholdt, ut supr.

(*e*) Aymar Bression, *Statistique generale de Genève*, in the *Journal de la Société Française de Statistique Universelle*, xiv., 507.

(*f*) From an unpublished report of the librarian, Prof. Chastel, for which I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Thos. Harvey.

(*g*) Sardinian Calendar of 1836.

(*h*) Valery, ut supr. Comp. Serristori.

(*i*) Private information; Prof. Adrien, chief librarian.

(*k*) Parl. Returns of 1849.

(*l*) Private information; R. Reid, Esq. Comp. *Report to the Directors of Stirling's Library* (1843).

(*m*) Private information; Dr. Hoeck, Principal Librarian. Comp. *Serapeum*, vi. 384, Klemm, ut supr., and Petzholdt's *Anzeiger* for 1845.

(*n*) *Zur Geschichte der Bibliothek*, &c. Jacobs and Ukert, *Beiträge zur ältern Literatur*, &c. (1835), i, 60.

(*o*) Schreiner, *Grätz, ein statistisch-topographisches Gemähldc* (1843), 431, 443. Comp. Turnbull, *Austria*, &c., i, 266.

(*p*) Le Bas, ut supr.

(*q*) Serristori, ut supr.

—	Names of the Cities or Towns, the States to which they belong, and their Libraries.	Date of the Foundation of Library.	Population of City or Town.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books.		Number of Volumes of MSS., 1848.
				In 1836.	In 1848.	
133	GUESTROW.—*Mecklenburg* - - -	- -	8,567			
	Catholic Seminary Library - - -	1662	- -	- - -	14,000 (*a*)	
134	HAGUE.—*Holland* - - - - - -	- -	58,000			
	Royal Library - - - - - -	- -	- -	100,000 (*b*)	100,000?	2,000 (*c*)
135	HALBERSTADT.—*Prussian States* - -	- -	17,227			
	Cathedral Gymnasium Library - -	1442?	- -	- - -	15,000 (*a*)	220 (*d*)
136	HALLE.—*Prussian States* - - - -	- -	24,800			
	1. University Library * - - - - -	1694	- -	- - -	80,000 (*a*)	855
	2. St. Mary's Church Library - - -	1560	- -	- - -	16,000? (*a*)	
	3. Orphan House Library - - - -	1703	- -	- - -	25,000 (*a*)	
				TOTAL - -	121,000	855
137	HAMBURGH - - - - - - - -	- -	128,000			
	1. Town Library - - - - - -	1529	- -	120,000 (*e*)	152,000? (*f*)	5,000?
	2. Commercial Library * - - - - -	1735	- -	- - -	30,000 (*f*)	
	[3. *Library of the Society of Arts* -	1765 1842	- -	- - -	5,000 (*f*)]	
	[4. *Library of the Council of Health* -	1822	- -	- - -	2,400 (*f*)]	
	[5. *Archives Library* - - - -	1710 1842	- -	- - -	2,800 (*f*)]	
	[6. *St. Katherine's Library* - - -	1471	- -	- - -	2,067 (*f*)]	
				TOTAL - -	200,367	5,000
138	HANOVER.—*Hanover* - - - - -	- -	24,660			
	1. Royal Library - - - - - -	1660	- -	70,000	80,000? (*g*)	2,000
	2. Society Library - - - - - -	1799	- -	- - -	25,000 (*a*)	
	3. Town Library - - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	?	143
				TOTAL - -	105,000	2,343
139	HAVRE (LE).—*France* - - - - -	- -	25,168			
	Town Library - - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	14,000 (*h*)	
140	HEIDELBERG.—*Baden* - - - - -	- -	13,430			
	University Library * - - - - - [Public since 1787.]	1703	- -	- - -	200,000 (*i*)	1,800
141	HEILBRON.—*Wirtemburg* - - - -	- -	10,200			
	Gymnasial Library * - - - - -	1575	- -	- - -	10,000 (*a*)	
142	HILDBURGHAUSEN.—*Hildburghausen* -	- -	10,200			
	Ducal Library - - - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	12,000 (*k*)	
143	HILDESHEIM.—*Hanover* - - - -	- -	15,000			
	Beverinus' Catholic Library - - -	1677	- -	- - -	26,000 (*a*)	
141	IMOLA.—*States of the Church* - - -	- -	9,000			
	University Library - - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	40,000 (*l*)	
142	INNSBRUCK.—*Austrian States* - -	- -	10,738			
	University Library * - - - - -	1745	- -	- - -	40,000 (*m*)	963
143	JENA.—*Saxe Weimar* - - - - -	- -	5,817			
	University Library - - - - - -	1548	- -	- - -	70,000 (*m*)	
144	KASAN.—*Russian Empire* - - - -	- -	57,000			
	University Library - - - - - -	1804	- -	- - -	30,000? (*n*)	
145	KIEF.—*Russian Empire* - - - - -	- -	26,000			
	University Library - - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	45,000? (*n*)	
146	KIEL.—*Denmark* - - - - - -	- -	11,000			
	University Library - - - - - -	1666	- -	- - -	70,000	200
147	KLAGENFURT.—*Austrian States* - -	- -	12,480			
	Lyceum Library - - - - - -	1785	- -	26,000 (*m*)	27,000 (*o*)	340

(*a*) Petzholdt, *Adressbuch*, &c., ut supr.

(*b*) *Report on British Museum*, ut supr.

(*c*) Jubinal, *Lettres à M. de Salvandy sur quelquesunes des Manuscrits de la Bibliothèque de La Haye.*

(*d*) Waitz, in *Archiv der Gesellschaft für ältere deutsche Geschichtskunde*, viii. 283.

(*e*) Petersen, *Geschichte der Hamburgischen Stadt Bibliothek.*

(*f*) Private information; Dr. F. L. Hoffmann.

(*g*) Von Reden, *Das Königreich Hannover statistisch beschrieben*, ii., 4. 63.

(*h*) Le Bas, ut supr.

(*i*) Private information; Professor Baehr, Chief Librarian. *Serapeum*, ii., 15; vi., 383. Comp. Meyer, ut supra.

(*k*) Meyer, ut supr. Comp. Petzholdt.

(*l*) Valery, ut supr.

(*m*) Petzholdt, ut supra. Comp. Meyer, ut supr.

(*n*) Russian Reports, in *Serapeum*, ut supr.

(*o*) Herrmann, *Klagenfurt wie es war und ist.*

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148	KLOSTERNEUBURG.—*Austrian States.*					
	Chapter Library	- -	- -	- - -	25,000 (*a*)	400
149	KOENIGSBERG.—*Prussian States*	- -	68,000			
	1. University Library	1544	- -	- - -	60,000 (*a*)	
	2. Town Library [Public since 1781.]	1541	- -	- - -	?	
				TOTAL - -	60,000 ?	
150	KREMSMUNSTER.—*Austrian States.*					
	Benedictine Convent Library	- -	- -	- - -	50,000 (*a*)	
151	LANGRES.—*France*	- -	6,191			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	30,000 (*b*)	
152	LAON.—*France*	- -	7,826			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	20,000 (*b*)	471 (*c*)
153	LAUBAN.—*Prussian States*	- -	5,640			
	Town Library *	1596 ?	- -	- - -	15,000 (*a*)	
154	LAUSANNE.—*Switzerland*	- -	14,126			
	University Library	1549	- -	- - -	20,000 (*a*)	300
155	LAYBACH.—*Austrian States*	- -	13,079			
	Lyceum Library *	1710	- -	- - -	20,000 (*a*)	
156	LEIPSIC.—*Saxony*	- -	47,514			
	1. University Library	1544	- -	110,000 (*d*)	112,000 ? (*a*)	2,500
	2. Town Library	1677	- -	- - -	80,000 ? (*a*)	2,000
				TOTAL	192,000	4,500
157	LEMBURG.—*Austrian States*	- -	54,965			
	1. University Library *	- -	- -	- - -	45,000 (*a*)	
	2. Ossolinski Library	- -	- -	- - -	60,000 (*a*)	
				TOTAL - -	105,000	
158	LEYDEN.—*Holland*	- -	36,110			
	University Library	1586	- -	70,000 (*d*)	70,000 ? (*e*)	10,000 ?
159	LIEGE.—*Belgium*	- -	58,000			
	1. University Library	1700 ?	- -	- - -	56,000 (*f*)	437
	2. Seminary Library	- -	- -	- - -	14,000 (*g*)	
				TOTAL - -	70,000	437
160	LILLE.—*France*	- -	72,000			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	22,370 (*h*)	387
161	LIMOGES.—*France*	- -	23,963			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	12,000 (*b*)	
162	LINDAU.—*Austrian States*	- -	5,000			
	Town Library	1538	- -	- - -	14,000 (*a*)	
163	LINKOEPING.—*Sweden and Norway*	- -	3,000 ?			
	Gymnasium Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 (*e*)	
164	LINTZ.—*Austrian States*	- -	23,318			
	Lyceum Library	- -	- -	- - -	22,000 (*a*)	
165	LISBON.—*Portugal*	- -	250,000			
	1. National Library	- -	- -	- - -	80,000 (*i*)	5,587
	2. St. Vincent's Seminary Library	- -	- -	- - -	18,000 (*i*)	
				TOTAL - -	98,000	

(*a*) Petzholdt, ut supr. Comp. Meyer, ut supr.

(*b*) Le Bas, ut supr.

(*c*) Comp. Haenel, ut supr.

(*d*) *Report on British Museum*, ut supr.

(*e*) Comp. Constantin (Hesse), ut supr.

(*f*) *Serapeum*, v. 307.

(*g*) Voisin, ut supr.

(*h*) Comp. Demeunynck, &c., ut supr., and Le Glay, ut supr.

(*i*) Wittich, *Bibliotheken Portugals*, in Zimmermann's *Zeitschrift für Alterthumswissenschaft* (1840), pp. 721, sqq. Many of the libraries described by Balbi (*Essai statistique sur le Royaume de Portugal*, ii. 83, sqq.), as existing in Lisbon in 1822, are certainly not now in existence.

—	Names of the Cities or Towns, the States to which they belong, and their Libraries.	Date of the Foundation of Library.	Population of City or Town.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books.		Number of Volumes of MSS., 1848.
				In 1836.	In 1848.	
166	LONDON.—*Great Britain*	- -	2,000,000			
	1. British Museum Library	1753	- -	220,000 (*a*)	435,000 (*b*)	31,000
	2. Sion College Library	1631	- -	28,000 ? (*a*)	35,500 (*b*)	387
	3. Dr. Williams's Library	1716	- -	15,000 ?	17,000 (*c*)	250
	[4. *Archbishop Tenison's Library*	1684	- -	3,000 ?	3,000 (*c*)]	70
		TOTAL	- -	266,000	490,500	31,707
	5. Lambeth Palace Library	- -	- -	?	24,000	1,400
167	LOUVAIN.—*Belgium*	- -	24,342			
	1. University Library	1639	- -	- - -	105,000 (*d*)	246
	2. Jesuits' Library	- -	- -	- - -	22,000 (*d*)	
				TOTAL -	127,000	
168	LUBECK	- -	26,000			
	1. Town Library *	1620	- -	- - -	40,000 ? (*e*)	400
	2. Medical Union Library	- -	- -	- - -	12,000	
				TOTAL - -	52,000	
169	LUCCA.—*Lucca*	- -	24,092			
	Ducal Library	- -	- -	- - -	25,000 (*f*)	
170	LUCERNE.—*Switzerland*	- -	7,000			
	Cantonal Library *	1577	- -	- - -	40,000 (*e*)	500
171	LUND.—*Sweden and Norway*	- -	4,120			
	University Library	- -	- -	40,000 ? (*a*)	40,000 ?	1,000
172	LUNEBURG.—*Hanover*	- -	11,800			
	Town Library	1555	- -	- - -	11,000 (*e*)	400
173	LUXEMBERG.—*Duchy of Luxemberg*	- -	12,000			
	Town Library	1819	- -	- - -	19,600 (*e*)	162
174	LYONS.—*France*	- -	200,000			
	1. Town Library	1609	- -	67,000 ?	70,000 (*g*)	1,518
	[2. *Library of the Palace of the Fine Arts*	- -	- -	- - -	6,000 (*g*)]	
	[3. *Library of the Academy*	- -	- -	- - -	6,000 (*g*)]	
	[All these libraries are stated to be public.]					
				TOTAL - -	82,000	1,518
175	MACERATA.—*States of the Church*	- -	15,600			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	20,000 (*h*)	
176	MACON.—*France*	- -	11,944			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 (*g*)	
177	MADRID.—*Spain*	- -	170,000			
	1. National Library	1712	- -	200,000 (*a*)	200,000 (*i*)	2,500
	2. St. Isidore's Library	- -	- -	- - -	60,000	
				TOTAL - -	260,000	2,500
178	MAFRA.—*Portugal*	- -	1,000			
	Conventual Library	- -	- -	- - -	20,000 (*k*)	
179	MAGDEBURG.—*Prussian States*	- -	51,347			
	1. Town Library *	1650	- -	- - -	12,000 (*e*)	283
	2. Seminary (or Gymnasium ?) Library	- -	- -	- - -	12,000 (*m*)	250 (*e*)
				TOTAL - -	24,000	533
180	MANCHESTER.—*Great Britain and Ireland*	- -	360,000			
	Chetham Library	- -	- -	- - -	19,900 (*m*)	100
181	MANHEIM.—*Baden*	- -	20,600			
	Lyceum Library	- -	- -	- - -	20,000 (*n*)	

(*a*) *Report on British Museum*, ut supr. As to Sion College, comp. 29th *Report of Charity Commissioners* (1834), p. 466.

(*b*) Parliamentary Returns of 1849 (Sessional Paper, 18).

(*c*) See the article *Public Libraries in London and Paris*, in the *British Quarterly Review*, vi. 113. The number of MSS. assigned to the British Museum library is exclusive of about 28,000 charters, rolls, &c.

(*d*) Voisin, ut supr. Botfield, *Notes on the Cathedral Libraries of England* (1849), 189; Comp. Brayley, *Topographical History of Surrey*, iii, 301-309; and Todd, *Catalogue of the Archiepiscopal MSS. in the Library at Lambeth Palace*, pref. xi.

(*e*) Petzholdt, ut supr.

(*f*) Comp. Constantin (Hesse), ut supr.

(*g*) Le Bas, ut supr.

(*h*) Serristori, ut supr.

(*i*) " This library is very well conducted. It is rich in Spanish literature, especially theology and topography, and has been much increased numerically since the suppression of the convents; but good modern books are needed."—Ford, *Handbook of Spain*, 784, 785.

(*k*) Wittich, ut supr.

(*l*) Waitz, in *Archiv der Gesellschaft für ältere deutsche Geschichtskunde*, viii. 283.

(*m*) Private information; Thomas Jones, Esq., librarian of Chetham Library.

(*n*) Constantin, ut supr.

—	Names of the Cities or Towns, the States to which they belong, or their Libraries.	Date of the Foundation of Library.	Population of City or Town.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books. In 1836.	In 1848.	Number of Volumes of MSS., 1848.
182	MANS (*Le*).—*France*	-	49,103			
	1. Town Library	-	-	-	45,000 (*a*)	700 ?
	2. Seminary Library	-	-	-	15,000 (*a*)	
				TOTAL	60,000	
183	MANTUA.—*Lombardy and Venice*	-	26,865			
	Town Library	-	-	-	80,000 (*b*)	1,000
184	MARBURG.—*Hesse*	-	7,700			
	University Library	1527	-	-	75,000 (*c*)	
185	MAROS-VASARHELY.—*Austrian States*	-	7,000			
	Teleky Public Library	1812	-	-	60,000 (*d*)	
186	MARSEILLES.—*France*	-	170,000			
	Town Library	-	-	-	50,000 (*e*)	1,230
187	MEAUX.—*France*	-	7,774			
	Town Library	-	-	-	14,000 (*e*)	
188	MECHLIN.—*Belgium*	-	22,896			
	Seminary Library	-	-	-	30,000 (*f*)	100
189	MEININGEN.—*Saxe Meiningen*	-	6,000			
	Ducal Public Library	1699	-	-	32,000 ? (*d*)	
190	MELUN.—*France*	-	6,830			
	Town Library	-	-	-	10,000 (*e*)	
191	MENTZ.—*Hesse*	-	40,000			
	Town Library [Public since 1800.]	-	-	-	90,000 (*d*)	
192	METZ.—*France*	-	42,793	-		
	Town Library	-	-		30,000 (*g*)	900 (*h*)
193	MILAN.—*Lombardy and Venice*	-	171,268			
	1. Brera Library *	1797 ?	-	200,000 ? (*i*)	170,000 ? (*b*)	1,000
	2. Ambrosian Library	1604	-	100,000 ? (*i*)	80,000 ? (*b*)	5,500
				TOTAL	250,000	6,500
194	MODENA.—*Modena*	-	27,000			
	Este Library	1700 ?	-	-	90,000 ? (*b*)	3,000
195	MOELK.—*Austrian States*	-	-			
	Benedictine Convent Library	-	-	-	16,000 (*c*)	1,500
196	MONS.—*Belgium*	-	23,081			
	Town Library	1796	-	-	12,000 (*f*)	310
197	MONTAUBAN.—*France*	-	17,531			
	Town Library	-	-	-	10,500 (*e*)	
198	MONTBEILLARD.—*France*	-	4,000 ?			
	Town Library	-	-	-	10,000 (*e*)	
199	MONTBRISON.—*France*	-	6,020			
	Town Library	-	-	-	15,000 (*e*)	
200	MONTE CASSINO.—*Naples and Sicily*	-	-			
	Benedictine Convent Library	-	-	-	18,000 (*c*)	
201	MONTPELLIER.—*France*	-	33,864			
	1. Communal Library	-	-	-	40,000 (*e*)	32
	2. Medical School Public Library	1767	-	-	35,000 (*e*)	529
	3. Fabre Museum Library	-	-	-	25,000 (*e*)	
				TOTAL	100,000	561
202	MOSCOW.—*Russian Empire*	-	384,562			
	University Library	-	-	-	66,000 (*k*)	
203	MOULINS.—*France*	-	15,231			
	Town Library	-	-	-	20,000 (*e*)	20

(*a*) Techener, *Bibliothèques en Province*, in *Bulletin du Bibliophile*, 984 (Oct. 1846).

(*b*) Valery, ut supr. Comp. *Handbook for Northern Italy*, new edit., 192, 193.

(*c*) Constantin, ut sur.

(*d*) Petzholdt, ut supr. With respect to Maros Vásárhely, comp. Paget's *Travels in Hungary*, ii. 394.

(*e*) Le Bas, ut supr.

(*f*) Voisin, ut supr.

(*g*) Verronais, *Statistique du Département de la Moselle* (1844), 275.

(*h*) Pertz, in *Archiv der Gesellschaft für ältere deutsche Geschichtskunde*, viii. 5.

(*i*) *Report on British Museum*, ut supr.

(*k*) Russian Reports, ut supr.

—	Names of the Cities or Towns, the States to which they belong, and their Libraries.	Date of the Foundation of Library.	Population of City or Town.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books. In 1836.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books. In 1848.	Number of Volumes of MSS., 1848.
204	MUNICH.—*Bavaria*	- -	106,537			
	1. Royal Library*	1550	- -	500,000 (*a*)	600,000 (*b*)	22,000 (*b*)
	2. University Library	- -	- -	200,000 (*a*)	200,000 (*b*)	2,000
		TOTAL - -		700,000	800,000	24,000
205	MUNSTER.—*Prussian States*	- -	19,763			
	1. University Library	- -	- -	- - -	70,000 (*c*)	
	2. Gymnasium Library	- -	- -	- - -	25,000	
				TOTAL - -	95,000	
206	MURCIA.—*Spain*	- -	35,390?			
	St. Philip's Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 (*d*)	
207	MURI.—*Switzerland*	—	—	—	—	
	Benedictine Convent Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 (*e*)	64
208	NAMUR.—*Belgium*	- -	20,176			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	11,000 (*f*)	
209	NANCY.—*France*	- -	29,299			
	Town Library	1751	- -	- - -	25,000 (*g*)	105
210	NANTES.—*France*	- -	75,150			
	Town Library	1588	- -	- - -	30,000 (*h*)	600
211	NAPLES.—*Naples*	- -	350,000			
	1. Royal Bourbon Library*	- -	- -	300,000 ? (*a*)	150,000 (*i*)	3,000
	2. Brancaccian Library	1675	- -	10,000 ? (*a*)	50,000 (*i*)	
	3. University Library	- -	- -	50,000 ? (*a*)	40,000 (*k*)	
	4. St. Jerome's Convent Library	- -	- -	50,000 ? (*a*)	50,000 ?	
		TOTAL - -		410,000 ?	290,000	
211*	NEISSE.—*Prussian States*	- -	11,787			
	Gymnasial Library	- -	- -	- - -	14,000 (*l*)	
212	NEMOURS.—*France*	- -	3,635			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,500 (*g*)	
213	NEUSTRELITZ.—*Mecklenburg Strelitz*	- -	4,500			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	50,000 (*l*)	
214	NIORT.—*France*	- -	18,015			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	20,000 (*g*)	
215	NISMES.—*France*	- -	44,194			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	30,000 (*g*)	202
216	NOVARA.—*Sardinia*	- -	18,524			
	Seminary Library	- -	- -	- - -	12,000 (*i*)	
217	NUREMBERG.—*Bavaria*	- -	40,000			
	1. Town Library	1550?	- -	- - -	36,000 (*m*)	910
	2. Fenitzer Dellherr Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 (*l*)	
				TOTAL - -	46,000	
218	OLDENBURGH.—*Oldenburgh*	- -	5,564			
	Granducal Public Library	1792	- -	- - -	60,000 (*n*)	
219	OLMUETZ.—*Austrian States*	- -	12,782			
	University Library	1786?	- -	- - -	50,000 (*l*)	
220	OPORTO.—*Portugal*	- -	80,000			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	60,000 (*d*)	2,000

(*a*) *Report on British Museum*, ut supr.

(*b*) Lichtenthaler, *Allgemeine Auskunft über die Bibliothek zu München*; Comp. Schiller, *München, dessen Kunstschätze*, &c. 2e Aufl. 112; and De Reiffenberg, *Pélerinage à Munich* (1843). The latter states the computation of the librarian, Baron Lichtenthaler, to be 800,000 volumes, but he adds, "this appears to be an exaggeration." At all events, this magnificent collection must be placed in the first rank of European libraries, as little inferior even to that of Paris. Having been formed by the aggregation of many separate libraries, it includes, of course, a great number of duplicates. It has recently been lodged in the noble building erected for it from the designs of the late Bavarian architect Gaertner.

(*c*) Adrien of Giessen, in *Journal of Statistical Society of London*, iv. 66, sqq. (1841). But comp. Petzholdt, ut supr.

(*d*) Heine, ut supr.

(*e*) Meyer, ut supr.

(*f*) Voisin, ut supr.

(*g*) Le Bas, ut supr. With respect to Nancy, comp. Jubinal *Rapport à M. le Ministre de l'Instruction Publique*, p. 6; and with respect to Nîmes, comp. Rivoire, *Statistique du Département du Gard*, i., 380 (1842), in which it is stated that this library contains 13,696 *works*, and "about 50,000 volumes" (?).

(*h*) Ravaisson, ut supr.

(*i*) Valery, ut supr.

(*k*) Constantin, ut supr.

(*l*) Petzholdt, ut supr.

(*m*) De Reiffenberg, *Pelérinage*, &c. ut supr. Comp. Petzholdt, ut supr.

(*n*) Merzdorff, *Bibliographische Unterhaltungen* (1844), 69.

—	Names of the Cities and Towns, the States to which they belong, or their Libraries.	Date of the Foundation of Library.	Population of City or Town.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books.		Number of Volumes of MSS., 1848.
				In 1836.	In 1848.	
221	ORLEANS—*France*	- -	40,272			
	Town Library	- -	- -	30,000 ? (*a*)	26,000 (*b*)	483
222	OSSEK.—*Austrian States.*	- -	- -			
	Cistercian Convent Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 (*c*)	
223	OXFORD.—*Great Britain*	- -	24,000			
	1. Bodleian Library	1597	- -	160,000 ? (*d*)	220,000 (*e*)	21,000
	2. All Soul's College Library	- -	- -	- - -	50,000 ?	?
	3. Christ Church College Library	- -	- -	- - -	30,000 ?	?
	4. Radcliffe Library	1714	- -	- - -	?	?
	5. Ashmolean Library	- -	- -	- - -	30,000 ?	?
	6. Queen's College Library	- -	- -	- - -	18,000 ?	?
	7. Oriel College Library	- -	- -	- - -	15,000 ?	?
	8. Wadham College Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 ?	?
				TOTAL - -	373,000	
224	PADERBONN.—*Prussian States*	- -	8,660			
	University Library	- -	- -	- - -	40,000	
225	PADUA.—*Lombardy and Venice*	- -	45,000			
	1. University Library	1629	- -	50,000 (*f*)	70,000 (*g*)	
	2, Seminary Library	- -	- -	- - -	55,000 ?	
	3. Chapter Library	- -	- -	- - -	52,000 ?	
				TOTAL - -	177,000	
226	PALERMO.—*Sicily*	- -	140,000			
	University Library	1760 ?	- -	- - -	40,000 (*h*)	
227	PALMA (Majorca).—*Spain*	- -	34,343			
	Public Library	- -	- -	- - -	20,000	
228	PARIS.—*France*	- -	920,000			
	1. National Library* [Public since 1737.]	1595	- -	700,000 (*a*)	824,000 (*i*)	80,000
	2. Arsenal Library	1781 ?	- -	176,000 (*a*)	180,000 (*i*)	6,000
	3. Saint Geneviève Library* [Public since 1790.]	1624	- -	160,000 (*a*)	150,000 (*h*)	2,000
	4. Mazarine Library* [Public since 1688.]	1661	- -	90,000 (*a*)	100,000 (*i*)	4,000
	5. Town Library*	- -	- -	50,000 (*a*)	55,000 (*i*)	52
	6. Natural History Museum Library*	- -	- -	25,000 ?	30,000 (*l*)	
	7. Library of Ministry of Interior	- -	- -	13,000 ?	15,000 (*m*)	
	8. Library of the Institute	- -	- -	- - -	80,000 (*m*)	
	9. Library of the Sorbonne	- -	- -	- - -	40,000 (*m*)	
		TOTAL - -		1,214,000	1,474,000	92,052
229	PARMA.—*Parma*	- -	36,000			
	Ducal Library*	1760	- -	82,000 (*l*)	100,000 (*m*)	
230	PASSAU.—*Bavaria*	- -	9,660			
	Provincial and Lyceum Library*	- -	- -	- - -	30,000 (*n*)	121
231	PATAK (HUNGARY).—*Austrian States*	- -	- -			
	Seminary Library	- -	- -	- - -	20,000 ? (*c*)	
232	PAU.—*France*	- -	11,959			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	15,000 (*b*)	
233	PAVIA.—*Lombardy and Venice*	- -	23,531			
	University Library	1771	- -	- - -	50,000 (*m*)	
234	PERIGUEUX.—*France*	- -	9,329			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	16,000 (*b*)	
235	PERPIGNAÑ.—*France*	- -	16,733			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	15,000 (*b*)	

(*a*) *Report on British Museum,* ut supr.

(*b*) Le Bas, ut supr.

(*c*) Petzholdt, ut supr.

(*d*) Brown, ut supr.

(*e*) Parliamentary Returns of 1849, S. P. 18.

(*f*) *Bolletino Statistico di Milano* (1833).

(*g*) Comp. *Coup d'œil sur quelques Bibliothèques de l'Italie,* in the *Bulletin du Bibliophile,* Feb. 1839, p. 540.

(*h*) Serristori, ut supr.

(*i*) See *Public Libraries in London and Paris,* ubi supra. A recent number of Didot's *Encyclopédie Moderne* states the contents of the Bibliothèque Royale to be as follows:—" More than 900,000 printed volumes; 80,000 MS. volumes; and several hundreds of thousands of historical pieces in cartons." (Tome vi, p. 162. 1847).

(*k*) De Bougy, *Histoire de la Bibliothèque Sainte Geneviève,* 149, (1847).

(*l*) De La Borde, *Étude sur la construction des Bibliothèques,* 29, (1846).

(*m*) Comp. Macarel and Boulatignier, *De la fortune publique en France,* i. 477–522. The library of the Minister of the Interior was made public in 1848, that of the Sorbonne was reorganised by a decree of M. de Salvandy in 1846. There is a public musical library attached to the " Conservatory of Music," which is stated to contain 17,000 vols.

(*n*) Valery, ut supr.

(*o*) Schöller, *Statistik der Stadt Passau,* 18.

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				In 1836.	In 1848.	
236	PERUGIA.—*States of the Church*	- -	30,000?			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	30,000 (*a*)	
237	PESARO—*States of the Church*	- -	15,000?			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	15,000 (*b*)	
	PESTH. *See* BUDA PESTH.					
238	PETERSBURGH, ST.—*Russian Empire*	- -	469,720			
	1. Imperial Library [Public since 1814.]	- -	- -	400,000? (*c*)	446,000? (*d*)	20,650?
	2. University Library	- -	- -	- - -	27,000 (*d*)	
	3. Rumainzow Museum Library	- -	- -	30,818 (*c*)	32,900 (*d*)	954
				Total - -	505,900	21,604
239	PIACENZA.—*Parma*	- -	30,000?			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	34,000 (*a*)	
240	PISA.—*Tuscany*	- -	20,943			
	University Library	- -	- -	- - -	30,000 (*b*)	
241	POITIERS.—*France*	- -	22,000			
	1. Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	25,000 (*e*)	80
	[2. *Royal Court Library*	- -	- -	- - -	3,000]	
				Total - -	28,000	80
242	POSEN.—*Prussian States*	- -	32,456			
	1. Raczynski Public Library	1832	- -	- - -	42,000 (*f*)	
	2. Dezialynski Library	- -	- -	- - -	40,000 (*f*)	
				Total - -	64,000	
243	PRAGUE (Bohemia).—*Austrian States*	- -	107,358			
	1. University Library*	1777?	- -	90,000 (*c*)	130,000 (*g*)	4,000
	2. Præmonstratensian Convent Library	1665	- -	- - -	50,000 (*g*)	1,000
	3. National Museum Library	1818	- -	- - -	18,600	1,200
				Total - -	198,000	6,200
244	PRESBURGH (Hungary).—*Austrian States*	- -	37,380			
	Appony Library	1827	- -	- - -	56,000 (*h*)	
245	RAMBERVILLERS.—*France*	- -	5,000			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 (*e*)	
246	RATISBON.—*Bavaria*	- -	22,000			
	Town Library	1430	- -	- - -	20,000 (*g*)	
247	RAVENNA.—*States of the Church*	- -	16,000			
	Town Library	1714	- -	- - -	40,000 (*b*)	750
248	REGGIO.—*Naples and Sicily*	- -	8,000			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	50,000 (*b*)	
249	RENNES.—*France*	- -	29,909			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	35,000 (*i*)	220
250	REVAL.—*Russian Empire*	- -	24,041			
	Esthonian Public Library	1825	- -	- - -	10,000 (*k*)	
251	RHEIMS.—*France*	- -	38,359			
	Town Library	1806	- -	- - -	30,000 (*e*)	1,500
252	RHODEZ.—*France*	- -	9,158			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 (*e*)	
253	RIGA.—*Russian Empire*	- -	60,000?			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	28,190 (*l*)	
254	RIMINI.—*States of the Church*	- -	27,000			
	Town Library	1617	- -	- - -	30,000 (*b*)	
255	ROCHELLE (La).—*France*	- -	14,857			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	20,000 (*e*)	199

(*a*) Serristori, ut supr.
(*b*) Valery, ut supr.
(*c*) *Report on British Museum*, ut supr.
(*d*) Russian Reports, ut supr.
(*e*) Le Bas, ut supr.
(*f*) Petzholdt, ut supr.
(*g*) *Bibliopolisches Jahrbuch*, ut supr. Comp. Petzholdt.
(*h*) Petzholdt, ut supr. With respect to Nuremberg, comp. Constantin, ut supr.
(*i*) Ravaisson, ut supr.
(*k*) Possart, *Statistique des Gouvernements Esthland* (1846).
(*l*) *Das Inland*, 1845, 205, sqq. (Dorpat).

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				In 1836.	In 1848.	
256	ROME.—*States of the Church*	- -	152,000	- - -		
	1. Casanate Library	1700?	- -	- - -	120,000 (*a*)	4,500
	2. Vatican Library	465?	- -	90,000? (*b*)	100,000 (*a*)	24,000
	3. Angelica Library	1605	- -	- - -	85,000 (*a*)	2,945
	4. Barberini Library	- -	- -	- - -	60,000 (*a*)	
	5. Alexandrian Library	- -	- -	- - -	50,000? (*c*)	
	6. Roman College Library	- -	- -	- - -	50,000? (*c*)	
				TOTAL - -	465,000	31,445
257	ROSTOCK.—*Mecklenburgh*	- -	18,067			
	University Library	1569	- -	- - -	70,000? (*d*)	
258	ROUEN.—*France*	- -	100,000?			
	Town Library	- -	- -	28,000?	48,000 (*e*)	1,300
259	ROVIGO.—*Lombardy and Venice*	- -	5,669			
	Silvester Library	- -	- -	- - -	36,000?	
260	RUDOLSTADT.—*Schwarzburg Rudolstadt*	- -	4,000			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	46,000 (*d*)	
261	ST. ANDREWS.—*Great Britain*	- -	3,766			
	University Library	- -	- -	35,000	51,265 (*f*)	63
262	SAINT BRIEUX.—*France*	- -	11,382			
	Town Library	1793	- -	16,000 (*g*)	20,000? (*h*)	91
263	SAINT GALL.—*Switzerland*	- -	10,500			
	1. Convent Library	-	- -	- - -	60,000 (*i*)	
	2. Town Library	1536	- -	- - -	17,500 (*k*)	1,530?
				TOTAL - -	77,500	1,530
264	SAINT JAGO-DE-COMPOSTELLA—*Spain*	- -	12,000			
	University Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000?	
265	SAINT OMER.—*France*	- -	18,789			
	Town Library	- -	- -	11,400? (*l*)	13,000 (*m*)	842
266	SAINT QUENTIN.—*France*	- -	19,892			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	17,000 (*h*)	
267	SAINT YLIE.—*France*	- -	?			
	Tinsean Public Library	1760?	- -	- - -	10,000 (*h*)	
268	SAINTES.—*France*	- -	7,823			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	25,000 (*h*)	
269	SALAMANCA.—*Spain*	- -	14,500			
	University Library	1215?	- -	24,000 (*n*)	24,000?	
270	SALZBURG.—*Austrian States*	- -	12,000			
	1. Benedictine Convent Library	- -	- -	- - -	36,000 (*d*)	300
	2. Town or Lyceum Library	1810	- -	- - -	35,000? (*o*)	
				TOTAL - -	71,000	300
271	SAUMUR.—*France*	- -	11,576			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	15,000 (*h*)	
272	SCHAFFHAUSEN.—*Switzerland*	- -	6,800			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	30,000 (*p*)	
273	SCHWEIDNITZ.—*Prussian States*	- -	9,500			
	Hochberg Fürstenstein Library	- -	- -	- - -	28,000 (*d*)	1,200
273 *b*	SCHWERIN.—*Mechlenburgh Schwerin*	—				
	Government Library	1792	- -	- - -	20,000 (*q*)	—
	Fridericianum Library	1767	- -	- - -	8,000] (*q*)	—
					28,000	
274	SENS.—*France*	- -	9,029			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 (*r*)	

(*a*) Valery, ut supr.

(*b*) Rampoldi, *Corografia dell' Italia* (1833). At the same period, Ebert assigned this Library 30,000 volumes, and Valery 80,000.

(*c*) Constantin, ut supr.

(*d*) Petzholdt, supr. With respect to Rostock, comp. Constantin, ut supr.

(*e*) Ravaisson, ut supr.

(*f*) Parliamentary Return of 1849 (*S. P.* 18—ii.). Comp. Lyon, *History of St. Andrews*, ii. 189. This library has now 630 *l.* a year from the Consolidated Fund, in lieu of its former share of the Copyright Tax. It is stated to be open to the inhabitants, generally, of St. Andrews, under proper regulations.

(*g*) *Annuaire des Côtes du Nord* (1838), p. 109.

(*h*) Le Bas, ut supr.

(*i*) Weidmann, *Geschichte der Bibliothek von St. Gallen.*

(*k*) Meyer, ut supr.

(*l*) " 12,098 vols. including MSS."—Piers, *Notice Historique sur la Bibliothèque Publique de Ste. Omer.*

(*m*) Derheims, *Histoire de la ville de Ste. Omer*, 648 (1843).

(*n*) *Report on British Museum*, ut supr.

(*o*) Constantin, ut supr. Comp. Petzholdt.

(*p*) Meyer, ut supr.

(*q*) *Schwerin und seine Umgebungen* (1846), 10, 11.

(*r*) Techener, in *Bulletin du Bibliophile*, May 1845, 183.

—	Names of the Cities or Towns, the States to which they belong, and their Libraries.	Date of the Foundation of Library.	Population of City or Town.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books.		Number of Volumes of MSS., 1848.
				In 1836.	In 1848.	
275	SEVILLE.—*Spain*	- -	91,360			
	1. St. Acacio's Library	1749	- -	- - -	40,000? (*a*)	250
	2. Columbian Library	1560	- -	- - -	18,000	700
				TOTAL - -	58,000	950
276	SIENNA.—*Tuscany*	- -	18,975			
	Town Library	1758	- -	- - -	50,000 (*b*)	5,500?
277	SKARA.—*Sweden and Norway*	- -	1,590			
	Gymnasium Library	- -	- -	11,00 (*c*)	11,000?	
278	SOISSONS.—*France*	- -	7,864			
	Town Library	1794?	- -	26,750 (*d*)	29,155 (*e*)	242
279	SOLOTHURN.—*Switzerland*	- -	4,200			
	Town or Council Library	1760	- -	- - -	20,000 (*f*)	
280	STOCKHOLM.—*Sweden and Norway*	- -	83,885			
	1. Royal Library	- -	- -	70,000 (*c*)	70,000?	3,000
	2. Benzelstjerna Library	- -	- -	12,000 (*c*)	12,000?	
		TOTAL	- - -	82,000	82,000	3,000
281	STRALSUND.—*Prussian States*	- -	15,500			
	Town or Council Library	1709	- -	- - -	20,000 (*g*)	
282	STRASBURG.—*France*	- -	50,239			
	Town Library	1531	- -	- - -	50,000 (*h*)	
283	STUTTGARD.—*Wirtemberg*	- -	38,500			
	1. Royal Library	1765	- -	170,000 (*i*)	187,000? (*g*)	3,300?
	2. Museum Library	1803	- -	- - -	10,000	
				TOTAL - -	197,000	3,300
284	TIBAENS.—*Portugal*	—				
	Benedictine Convent Library	- -	- -	- - -	20,000? (*k*)	
285	TOLEDO.—*Spain*	- -	15,000			
	1. Cathedral Library	1598	- -	- - -	?	
	2. Archiepiscopal Library	1792	- -	30,000 (*c*)	30,000? (*l*)	125
286	TOULOUSE—*France*	- -	68,000			
	1. Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	30,000 (*h*)	637
	2. Royal College Library	- -	- -	- - -	30,000	
				TOTAL - -	60,000 (*m*)	637
287	TOURNAY.—*Belgium*	- -	28,919			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	27,000 (*n*)	127
288	TOURS.—*France*	- -	26,669			
	Town Library	1812	- -	- - -	35,000 (*o*)	1,000
289	TREVES.—*Prussian States*	- -	14,941			
	Town and Gymnasium Library	1570	- -	- - -	92,300 (*g*)	2,118
290	TRIESTE.—*Austrian States*	- -	51,346			
	Public Library	1795	- -	- - -	10,000 (*g*)	
291	TROPPAU.—*Austrian States*	- -	12,556			
	Public? Library	- -	- -	- - -	21,000? (*g*)	
292	TROYES.—*France*	- -	25,563			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	50,000 (*h*)	2,065 (*p*)
293	TUBINGEN.—*Wirtemberg*	- -	7,250			
	University Library *	1562	- -	- - -	200,000? (*q*)	1,900
294	TURIN.—*Sardinia and Piedmont*	- -	106,000			
	University Library * [Public since 1729.]	1436	- -	90,000?	110,000 (*r*)	2,000

(*a*) Heine, ut supr.

(*b*) Serristori, ut supr.

(*c*) *Report on British Museum* ut supr.

(*d*) Leroux, *Histoire de la Ville de Soissons*, 479 (1839).

(*e*) Le Bas, ut supr.

(*f*) Meyer, ut supr.

(*g*) Petzholdt, ut supr. Comp. Constantin.

(*h*) Le Bas. ut supr. Comp. Jubinal, ut supr.

(*i*) Bailly, in *Journal de la Société Française de Statistique Universelle.*

(*k*) Wittich, ut supr.

(*l*) Knust, in *Archiv.*, &c., ut supra., viii. 244.

(*m*) The old Cathedral Library is said to have possessed in 1789, 21,000 vols. See Dumege, *Histoire des Institutions littéraires de Toulouse*, iv., 270.

(*n*) Voisin, ut supr.

(*o*) Ravaisson, ut supr.

(*p*) Libri, in *Journal des Savans*, Juillet, 1841; *Lettre à Boucly*, 19, note.

(*q*) Keller, in *Serapeum*, i., 124.

(*r*) Vallauri, *Storia delle Universita degli studi del Piemonte*, iii., 138, 1846.

—	Names of the Cities or Towns, the States to which they belong, and their Libraries.	Date of the Foundation of Library.	Population of City or Town	Number of Volumes of Printed Books.		Number of Volumes of MSS., 1848.
				In 1836.	In 1848.	
295	ULM.—*Wirtemberg* - - - - -	- -	12,049			
	Town Library * - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	20,000 (*a*)	
296	UPSAL.—*Sweden and Norway* - - -	- -	4,500			
	University Library * - - - - -	1621	- -	100,000 (*b*)	150,000 ? (*c*)	5,000
297	UTRECHT.—*Holland* - - - -	- -	44,000			
	University Library - - - - -	- -	- -	27,000 “books” (*b*)	20,000 ?	
298	VALENCE.—*France* - - - - -	- -	9,390			
	Town Library - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	15,000 (*d*)	
299	VALENCIA.—*Spain* - - - - -	- -	65,840			
	Chapter ? Library - - - - -	1750	- -	50,000 (*e*)	50,000 ?	211
300	VALENCIENNES.—*France* - - -	- -	16,679			
	Town Library - - - - -	1762	- -	- - -	13,000 (*f*)	200
301	VALETTA.—*Malta* (*Great Britain*) - -	- -	40,000 ?			
	Town Library - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	40,000 ? (*g*)	
302	VALLADOLID.—*Spain* - - - - -	- -	20,960			
	1. Holy Cross Library ? - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	14,000 ? (*h*)	
	2. University Library - - - -	- -	- -	13,250 (*b*)	13,250 ?	300
				TOTAL - -	27,250	300
303	VALOGNES.—*France* - - - - -	- -	6,034			
	Town Library - - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	12,000 (*i*).	
304	VENICE.—*Lombardy and Venice* - -	- -	97,156			
	1. Saint Mark's Library - - - -	1468	- -	86,000	70,000 ? (*k*)	5,000
	2. Seminary Library - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	20,000 (*g*)	
	3. Armenian Convent Library - - -	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 (*g*)	
	[4. ***Other Conventual Libraries*** - - -	- -	- -	- - -	37,000 ? (*g*)]	
				TOTAL - -	137,000	5,000
305	VERCELLI.—*Sardinia and Piedmont* -	- -	18,353			
	Agnesian Library - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	12,000 (*l*)	
306	VERDUN.—*France* - - - - -	- -	9,151			
	Town Library - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	14,000 ? (*d*)	
307	VERONA.—*Lombardy and Venice* - -	- -	48,486			
	Town Library - - - - -	1802	- -	- - -	10,000 (*d*)	
308	VERSAILLES.—*France* - - - -	- -	28,766			
	1. Town Library - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	48,000 (*m*)	
	2. Museum Library - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 ?	
				TOTAL - -	58,000 ?	
309	VESOUL.—*France* - - - - -	- -	5,792			
	Town Library - - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	23,000 (*a*)	
310	VICENZA.—*Lombardy and Venice* - -	- -	20,688			
	Bertolian Library - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	36,000 (*l*)	200
311	VICH.—*France* - - - - - -	- -	12,500			
	Episcopal Library - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 ?	
312	VIENNA.—*Austrian States* - - -	- -	360,000			
	1. Imperial Library * - - - - [Public since 1575]	1440	- -	300,000 (*b*)	313,000 ? (*n*)	16,000
	2. University Library - - - -	1777	- -	100,000 (*b*)	115,000 (*n*)	
	3. Archduke Charles's Library - - -	- -	- -	- - -	25,000 (*n*)	
				TOTAL - -	453,000	16,000
313	VIENNE.—*France* - - - - -	- -	14,000			
	Town Library - - - - -	- -	- -	- - -	14,000 ? (*d*)	

(*a*) Meyer, ut supr.

(*b*) *Report on British Museum*, ut supr.

(*c*) Baird, *Visit to Northern Europe*, ii., 244.

(*d*) Macculloch, ut supr.

(*e*) De la Borde, *Itinéraire*, ii., 293.

(*f*) Demeunynck and Devaux, *Annuaire Statistique du Département du Nord*, 1846, 123, 124. Comp. Le Glay, *Memoire sur les Bibliothèques du Nord*, ut supr.

(*g*) Constantin, ut supr.

(*h*) Haenel, ut sup.

(*i*) Ravaisson, ut supr.

(*k*) Comp. Le Comte, *Venice*; *Coup d'œil littéraire*, &c.; and Valery, ut supr., ii. 317.

(*l*) Valery, ut supr.

(*m*) *Bulletin du Bibliophile*, Feb. 1839, 540.

(*n*) *Serapeum*, Nov. 1846, vii., 336. Comp. Pezzl, *Beschreibung von Wien*, Tschischka's edition, 266. and Petzholdt, ut supr.

—	Names of the Cities or Towns, the States to which they belong, and their Libraries.	Date of the Foundation of Library.	Population of City or Town.	Number of Volumes of Printed Books.		Number of Volumes of MSS., 1848.
				In 1836.	In 1848.	
314	VLADIMIR.—*Russian Empire*	- -	7,000			
	Seminary Library	- -	- -	- - -	50,000 ? (*a*)	
315	VOLTERRA.—*Tuscany*	- -	6,000			
	Town Library	- -	- -	- - -	12,000 (*b*)	
316	WARMBRUNN.—*Prussian States*	- -	1,900			
	Schaffgot's Library	- -	- -	- - -	50,000 (*c*)	
317	WARRINGTON.—*Great Britain*	- -	21,857			
	[*Museum Library*	1760	- -	- - -	4,500]	
318	WARSAW.—*Poland*	- -	139,671			
	University Library	- -	- -	- - -	?	
319	WEIMAR.—*Saxe Weimar*	- -	11,212			
	Granducal Public Library *	1691	- -	- - -	110,000 ? (*c*)	2,000
320	WERNIGERODE.—*Prussian States*	- -	5,340?			
	Stolberg Public Library	1755	- -	- - -	40,000 (*d*)	
321	WESTERAS.—*Sweden*	- -	312?			
	Gymnasium Library	- -	- -	- - -	10,000 (*e*)	300
322	WIESBADEN.—*Nassau*	- -	15,000			
	Granducal Library	- -	- -	- - -	50,000 (*c*)	
323	WILNA.—*Poland.*					
	University Library	- -	- -	- - -	?	
324	WITTENBERG.—*Prussian States*	- -	8,400			
	University Library	- -	- -	- - -	18,000 (*c*)	100
325	WOLFENBUTTEL.—*Brunswick*	- -	8,500			
	Ducal Library * [Public since 1667.]	1604	- -	140,000 (*f*)	200,000 (*g*)	4,580
326	WURZBURG.—*Bavaria*	- -	22,500			
	University Library *	- -	- -	- - -	74,000 (*h*)	900
327	ZEITZ.—*Prussian States*	- -	10,000			
	Gymnasium Library	1564	- -	- - -	15,000 (*g*)	350
328	ZITTAU.—*Saxony*	- -	8,674			
	Town or Senate Library*	1564 ?	- -	- - -	12,000 (*i*)	200
329	ZURICH.—*Switzerland*	- -	11,536			
	Town Library*	1628	- -	- - -	45,000 (*c*)	700
330	ZWICKAU.—*Saxony*	- -	7,239			
	Gymnasium Library	1532	- -	- - -	20,000 (*c*)	200

(*a*) Russian Reports, ut supr.

(*b*) Valery, ut supr.

(*c*) Petzholdt, ut supr. Comp. Constantin, ut supr.

(*d*) *Bibliopolisches Jahrbuch*, ut supr. Comp. Petzholdt.

(*e*) Constantin, ut supr.

(*f*) *Report on British Museum*, ut supr.

(*g*) Petzholdt's *Anzeiger*, &c. Comp. Meyer, ut supr.

(*h*) *Serapeum*, 1845, vi. 179.

(*i*) Petzholdt, *Adressbuch*, &c. Comp. Klemm, ut supr.

(A.)—Approximate Tabular View of the Number of Libraries containing 10,000 Volumes or upwards, accessible to the Public, in the several States of *Europe*.

—	NAME OF STATE.	Population of State.	Number of Libraries exceeding 10,000 Volumes.	Aggregate Population of Cities and Towns containing said Libraries.	Aggregate Number of Volumes in the said Libraries.	Number of Volumes to every 100 of the Population of the Cities containing them.
1	Anhalt - - - -	146,233	1	11,749	20,000	170
2	Austrian States - -	36,950,401	49	1,443,187	2,408,000	167
3	Baden - - - -	1,335,200	5	72,960	404,300	540
4	Bavaria - - - -	4,407,721	18	373,337	1,268,500	339
5	Belgium - - - -	4,242,600	14	538,564	509,100	95
6	Bremen - - - -	42,000	2	42,000	36,000	86
7	Brunswick - - -	269,000	1	8,500	200,000	2,353
8	Cracow - - - -	145,787	2	37,000	52,000	141
9	Denmark - - - -	2,194,950	5	156,692	647,000	412
10	France - - - -	34,213,929	109	3,183,120	4,092,695	129
11	Frankfort on Maine -	66,244	1	66,244	62,000	94
12	Great Britain & Ireland*	28,000,000	34	3,344,916	1,771,493	53
13	Hamburgh* - - -	128,000	6	128,000	200,367	148
14	Hanover - - - -	1,873,280	5	61,700	492,000	813
15	Hesse - - - -	812,540	4	88,700	265,000	299
16	Hesse Darmstadt - -	783,400	2	30,300	280,000	924
17	Hildburghausen - -	10,200	1	10,200	12,000	118
18	Holland - - - -	3,128,841	5	349,010	219,000	63
19	Lippe Detmold - -	82,970	1	2,500	21,500	860
20	Lubeck - - - -	26,000	2	26,000	52,000	200
21	Lucca - - - -	168,198	1	24,092	25,000	104
22	Luxembourg - - -	160,000	1	12,000	19,600	163
23	Mecklenburg - - -	482,495	2	26,634	84,000	315
24	Mecklenburg Strelitz -	89,528	1	4,500	50,000	1,111
25	Modena - - - -	403,000	1	27,000	90,000	333
26	Naples and Sicily - -	9,032,654	8	550,453	413,000	66
27	Nassau - - - -	387,570	1	15,000	50,000	333
28	Oldenburg - - -	265,570	1	5,564	60,000	1,078
29	Papal States - - -	2,732,036	15	358,600	953,000	266
30	Parma - - - -	485,826	3	71,500	146,000	204
31	Portugal - - -	3,412,500	7	363,000	276,000	76
32	Prussian States - -	14,992,738	44	989,613	2,008,350	200
33	Rudolstadt - - -	4,000	1	4,000	46,000	1,150
34	Russian Empire - -	49,000,000	12	1,063,823	852,090	80
35	Sardinia and Piedmont -	4,650,368	9	302,497	286,000	94
36	Saxe Coburg Gotha -	140,050	3	35,579	247,000	618
37	Saxe Meiningen - -	148,590	1	6,000	32,000	533
38	Saxe Weimar - - -	245,820	2	17,029	180,000	1,057
39	Saxony* - - - -	7,665,590	9	132,927	570,500	417
40	Spain - - - -	12,168,774	17	650,359	687,550	106
41	Sweden and Norway -	4,354,767	8	120,528	353,000	309
42	Switzerland - - -	2,036,000	13	137,083	480,300	350
43	Tuscany - - - -	1,436,785	10	153,466	401,000	261
44	Waldeck Pyrmont - -	56,480	1	1,500	30,000	2,000
45	Wirtemberg - - -	1,701,726	5	67,999	427,000	628
	Totals - - -	- - -	443	15,115,425	21,780,345	—

* With respect to the States thus marked, the enumeration includes libraries of smaller extent than 10,000 volumes.

ILLUSTRATIVE REMARKS ON THE PRECEDING TABLE.

Principal libraries of the European capitals, in the order of their magnitude.

If the principal libraries of the several capital cities of Europe named in the preceding list be arranged in the order of their respective magnitudes, they will stand as follows:—

1.	Paris (1), * National Library - - -	824,000 volumes.
2.	Munich, * Royal Library - - -	600,000 ,,
3.	Petersburgh, Imperial Library - -	446,000 ,,
4.	London, British Museum Library - -	435,000 ,,
5.	Copenhagen, * Royal Library - -	412,000 ,,
6.	Berlin, * Royal Library - - -	410,000 ,,
7.	Vienna, * Imperial Library - - -	313,000 ,,
8.	Dresden, * Royal Library - - -	300,000 ,,
9.	Madrid, National Library - - -	200,000 ,,
10.	Wolfenbuttel, Ducal Library - -	200,000 ,,
11.	Stuttgard, Royal Library - - -	187,000 ,,
12.	Paris (2), Arsenal Library - - -	180,000 ,,
13.	Milan, * Brera Library - - - -	170,000 ,,
14.	Paris (3), * St. Geneviève Library - -	150,000 ,,
15.	Darmstadt, * Grand-Ducal Library -	150,000 ,,
16.	Florence, Magliabecchian Library - -	150,000 ,,
17.	Naples, * Royal Library - - - -	150,000 ,,
18.	Brussels, Royal Library - - -	133,500 ,,
19.	Rome (1), Casanate Library - - -	120,000 ,,
20.	Hague, Royal Library - - - -	100,000 ,,
21.	Paris (4), * Mazarine Library - - -	100,000 ,,
22.	Rome (2), Vatican Library - - -	100,000 ,,
23.	Parma, * Ducal Library - - - -	100,000 ,,

Their right to gratuitous copies.

The National Libraries of Paris and Madrid, the Royal Libraries of Munich, Berlin, Copenhagen, Vienna, Naples, Brussels, and the Hague, the Brera Library at Milan, the Magliabecchian at Florence, and the Ducal Library of Parma, together with the Library of the British Museum, are entitled by law to a copy of every book published within the states to which they respectively belong.

Their dates of foundation.

The oldest of the great libraries of printed books is probably that of Vienna, which dates from 1440, and is said to have been opened to the public as early as 1575. The Town Library of Ratisbon dates from 1430; St. Mark's Library at Venice, from 1468; the Town Library of Frankfort, from 1484; that of Hamburg, from 1529; of Strasburg, from 1531; of Augsburg, from 1537; those of Berne and Geneva, from 1550; that of Basel, from 1564.

Great libraries of Copenhagen, Paris, and London.

The Royal Library of Copenhagen was founded about 1550. In 1671 it possessed 10,000 volumes; in 1748, about 65,000; in 1778, 100,000; in 1820, 300,000; and it now contains 412,000 volumes. The National Library of Paris was founded in 1595, but was not made public until 1737. In 1640 it contained about 17,000 volumes; in 1684, 50,000; in 1775, 150,000; in 1790, 200,000. It now possesses at least 824,000 volumes. The library of the British Museum was founded in 1753, and was opened to the public in 1757, with about 40,000 volumes. In 1800, it contained about 65,000 volumes; in 1823, 125,000; in 1836, nearly 240,000; and it now contains 435,000 volumes. But it must not be inferred that the *whole* of this difference between 1836 and 1848 arises from the actual increase of the collection; on the contrary, a portion of the apparent increase results from the circumstance that many thousands of tracts, formerly in volumes or cases, have been separately bound, and are now enumerated as distinct volumes.

Comparison of their progressive increase.

The steady growth of the Copenhagen Library has been mainly owing to judicious purchases at favourable opportunities. The rapid increase of the magnificent National Library of Paris, since 1790, is in great measure to be ascribed to the revolution; the suppression of the monasteries and convents, and the confiscation of the property of rebels and emigrants, having placed many fine libraries at the disposal of the ruling powers of the day. And although, in some cases, large numbers of books and MSS. appear to have been summarily disposed of, "for the service of the arsenals;" more usually special instructions were given, that the officers at the head of the National Library should have an unlimited power of selection, and of this they made extensive use. The increase of the British Museum Library, on the other hand, is mainly ascribable to donation. Of its 435,000 volumes, at least 200,000 have been presented or bequeathed.

Sums allotted to the support of libraries in some of the continental cities

The average annual sum allotted to the support of the National Library at Paris is 16,575 *l.*; to that of the Royal Library at Brussels, 2,700 *l.*; to that of Munich, about 2,000 *l.*; to that of Vienna, 1,900 *l.*; to that of Berlin, 3,745 *l.*; to that of Copenhagen, 1,250 *l.*; to that of Dresden, 500 *l.*; to that of the Grand Ducal Library of Darmstadt, 2,000 *l.*

For

Sums allotted to British Museum Library.

For a long period prior to the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the British Museum of 1835–36, the average annual expenditure for the library of the Museum was under 8,000 *l.* a year, and of this sum only 1,135 *l.*, on an average, were expended on the purchase of printed books. From 1837 to 1845 inclusive, the sum devoted to the last-named purpose was, on the average, 3,443 *l.* In 1846 and 1847 an annual sum of 10,000 *l.* was thus appropriated, by a special increase of the Parliamentary grant, urgent representations having been made to the Treasury of the great deficiencies existing in the collection of printed books. In 1848, however, this grant was reduced to 8,500 *l.*, and the sum proposed to be voted for 1849 is but 5,000 *l.* The entire annual amount at present allotted to the service of the library, in all its departments, is 23,261 *l.*; viz., for salaries in the department of MSS., 2,169 *l.*; in that of printed books, 7,122 *l.*; and in the reading-room, 904 *l.*; for purchases in the department of MSS., 1,823 *l.*, and in that of printed books, 5,000 *l.*; for bookbinding, 3,500 *l.*; for printing catalogues, 873 *l.*; and for proportion of the expense of secretary's department and of ordinary house expenditure, &c., about 1,870 *l.**

The aggregate of the sums expended in the purchase of printed books, including maps and musical works, for the British Museum, from its foundation in the year 1753, to Christmas 1847, is 102,446 *l.* 18 *s.* 5 *d.*, and that expended in the purchase of manuscripts, 42,940 *l.* 11 *s.* 10 *d.*, together 145,387 *l.* 10 *s.* 3 *d.* The sums expended during the same period in prints and drawings amount to 29,318 *l.* 4 *s.*; in antiquities, coins, and medals, to 125,257 *l.* 0 *s.* 9 *d.*; and in specimens of natural history, in all its branches, to 43,599 *l.* 7 *s.* 8 *d.*

The present average number of volumes annually added to the National Library of Paris is stated to be 12,000; to that of Munich, 10,000; to that of Berlin, 5,000; to that Vienna, 5,000; to that of Petersburgh, 2,000; to the Ducal Library of Parma, 1,800; to the Royal Library of Copenhagen, 1,000. The average annual addition to the library of the British Museum has been, under the operation of the special grant, about 30,000 volumes, usually comprising about 24,000 separate works.

This increment is made up of three distinct items, viz. purchases, donations, copyright-tax, the relative proportions of which may be estimated from the following tabular statement:—

In the Year	By Purchase. Separate Works.	By Donation. Separate Works.	By Copyright. Separate Works.	Estimated Total Number of Volumes added.	Expenditure.
					£.
1841 - -	3,140	236	2,409	9,193	3,000
1842 - -	3,627	926	2,381	10,424	3,000
1843 - -	4,856	250	2,816	12,387	4,000
1844 - -	5,475	653	3,929	16,325	4,500
1845 - -	7,630	881	3,596	13,174	4,500
1846 - -	18,787	16,377	4,073	53,422	8,909
1847 - -	15,711	1,806	4,168	36,271	9,941
1848 - -	15,382	1,275	4,015	23,213	8,572
TOTALS - - -	74,608	22,404	27,387	174,409	46,422

University libraries.

The chief University libraries may be ranked in the following order:—

1.	GÖTTINGEN,* University Library - - -	360,000 volumes
2.	BRESLAU, University Library - - - -	250,000 „
3.	OXFORD, Bodleian Library - - - -	220,000 „
4.	TUBINGEN, University Library - - - -	200,000 „
5.	MUNICH, University Library - - - -	200,000 „
6.	HEIDELBERG, University Library - - -	200,000 „
7.	CAMBRIDGE, Public Library - - - -	166,724 „
8.	BOLOGNA, University Library - - - -	150,000 „
9.	PRAGUE,* University Library - - - -	130,000 „
10.	VIENNA, University Library - - - -	115,000 „
11.	LEIPSIC, University Library - - - -	112,000 „
12.	COPENHAGEN, University Library - - -	110,000 „
13.	TURIN,* University Library - - - -	110,000 „
14.	LOUVAIN, University Library - - - -	105,000 „
15.	DUBLIN, Trinity College Library - - -	104,239 „
16.	UPSAL,* University Library - - - -	100,000 „
17.	ERLANGEN, University Library - - -	100,000 „
18.	EDINBURGH, University Library - - -	90,854 „

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* In a subsequent Paper in this Appendix (pages 296 and 297) will be found "An Account of the Sums expended on the Library of the British Museum, from 1753 to 1848." As respects purchases, this account is given in precise detail, but as respects the general maintenance of the Library, it is only approximative, the Parliamentary accounts not discriminating between the literary and the scientific departments of the Museum. The estimated proportion of the general expenses of the establishment, assigned in this account to the Library, is somewhat below the real proportion so expended during the last few years, but I believe that, as an average of the whole period, the estimate will be found to give a very near approximation to the actual expenditure.

The

Their date of foundation.

The University Library of Turin dates from 1436, that of Cambridge from 1484, that of Leipsic from 1544, that of Edinburgh from 1582, the Bodleian from 1597. The small library of the University of Salamanca is said to have been founded in 1215.

Their right to gratuitous copies.

The Göttingen, Prague, Turin, and Upsal Libraries are lending libraries. Those of Göttingen, Oxford, Prague, Cambridge, Dublin, and Turin, are legally entitled to copies of all works published within the states to which they respectively belong.

Their annual expenditure.

The annual expenditure of the Tübingen library is about 760 *l.*; of the Göttingen library 730 *l.*; of the Breslau library about 400 *l.* That of the Bodleian, at Oxford, is now about 4,000 *l.*; of which sum 1,375 *l.* is defrayed by proceeds of various benefactions; about 650 *l.* by matriculation fees, and about 1,500 *l.* by "library dues." With respect to this library there is more than usual difficulty in obtaining trustworthy data: I have therefore compiled, from various privately printed reports and other documents, the following table of its accessions from 1826 (at which period I believe it to have contained about 124,000 volumes) down to 1842.

Year.	Volumes of Printed Books added.		Expenditure in Acquisitions.		Expenditure in Salaries.	Total Expenditure.
	By Purchase.	By Donation.	1. Printed Books.	2. Manuscripts.		
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£.	£. s. d.
1826 - -	1,208	87	1,384 12 6	82 2 –	820	3,016 1 8
1827 - -	3,014	114	1,199 2 –	67 11 –	820	2,897 1 1
1828 - -	1,586	51	1,319 10 –	415 7 –	820	4,460 18 –
1829 - -	7,112	35	3,284 4 11	54 12 –	820	5,257 4 10
1830 - -	1,380	104	1,067 6 –	- - -	820	2,633 17 –
1831 - -	1,105	61	805 12 6	- - -	820	3,394 17 4
1832 - -	1,191	67	978 15 –	105 – –	820	2,927 17 5
1833 - -	1,271	150	990 14 6	36 6 –	820	3,460 6 6
1834 - -	2,337	12,110?	1,600 15 –	5 – –	820	3,823 4 9
1835 - -	2,775	87	1,251 7 6	215 5 –	820	4,182 14 8
1836 - -	1,215	85	1,465 8 –	114 19 6	820	3,255 4 10
1837 - -	3,105	131	1,469 16 6	55 2 –	820	3,223 7 11
1838 - -	1,956	144	1,474 17 –	29 18 6	820	3,469 14 1
1839 - -	1,648	60	1,053 17 6	21 – –	820	3,461 16 1
1840 - -	1,856	151	1,632 3 6	94 10 –	820	4,200 11 10
1841 - -	1,695	75	1,579 13 6	21 16 –	820	3,623 – 9
1842 - -	2,609	140	1,810 6 –	520 19 –	970	4,408 2 6
	37,063	13,652	24,368 2 –	1,839 8 –	14,090	61,696 1 3
			26,207 10 –			
1843 to 1848 -	12,000?	600?				
	49,063	14,252				
Total - -	63,315					

The number of volumes accruing to the Bodleian Library from the operation of the Copyright Act during these 23 years, computing them from the number supplied to the British Museum, would be about 38,000; so that the average annual increase of this library by purchase, donation, and tax, would be about 4,480 volumes a year.

2. Europe:—TABLE showing the Names of all Towns containing Public Libraries, under the respective States to which they belong.

⁂ In compliance with the wish expressed by the Committee for the extension of these statistical indications to the Public Libraries containing fewer than 10,000 volumes, the following table has been drawn up so as to indicate all the towns known to me as containing Libraries, of whatever extent, publicly accessible. The names of those towns whose Libraries have been enumerated in detail in the preceding list, are printed in Small Capitals, those which are now added are printed in *Italics*. The numbers within (parentheses) refer to the preceding Table.

—	NAME OF TOWN.	Number of Libraries.	Aggregate Number of Volumes of Printed Books.
	I.—ANHALT:		
1	*Cothen* - - - -	1	5,700
2	Dessau (91) - - -	1	20,000
	Total - - -	2	25,700
	II.—AUSTRIAN STATES, with LOMBARDY AND VENICE:		
1	Admont (5) - - -	1	25,000
2	Bergamo (39) - - -	1	45,000
3	Brescia (51) - - -	1	28,000
4	Brunn (54) - - -	1	30,000
5	Buda Pesth (56) - -	2	68,000
6	Carlsruhe (63) - -	1	25,000
7	Como (81) - - -	1	10,000
8	Debreczin (90) - -	1	20,000
9	Gottwieh (125) - -	1	40,000
10	Graetz (129) - - -	2	73,000
11	Innsbruck (142) - -	1	40,000
12	Klagenfurt (147) - -	1	27,000
13	Klosterneuburg (148) -	1	25,000
14	Kremsmunster (150) -	1	50,000
15	Laybach (155) - - -	1	20,000
16	Lemburg (157) - - -	2	105,000
17	Lindau (162) - - -	1	14,000
18	Lintz (164) - - -	1	22,000
19	Mantua (183) - - -	1	80,000
20	Maros Vasarhely (185) -	1	60,000
21	Milan (193) - - -	2	250,000
22	Moelk (195) - - -	1	16,000
23	Olmuetz (219) - - -	1	50,000
24	Ossek (222) - - -	1	10,000
25	Padua (225) - - -	3	177,000
26	Patak (231) - - -	1	20,000
27	Pavia (233) - - -	1	50,000
28	Prague (243) - - -	3	198,000
	Austrian States, &c.—*continued.*		
29	Presburg (244) - -	1	56,000
30	Rovigo (259) - - -	1	36,000
31	Salzburg (270) - -	2	71,000
32	Trieste (290) - - -	1	10,000
33	Troppau (291) - - -	1	21,000
34	Venice (304) - - -	4	137,000
35	Verona (307) - - -	1	10,000
36	Vicenza (310) - - -	1	36,000
37	Vienna (312) - - -	3	453,000
	Total - - -	49	2,408,000
	III.—BADEN:		
1	Carlsruhe (64) - -	1	80,300
2	Constance (82) - -	1	14,000
3	Fribourg (116) - -	1	90,000
4	Heidelberg (140) - -	1	200,000
5	Manheim (181) - -	1	20,000
	Total - - -	5	404,300
	IV.—BAVARIA:		
1	Amberg (16) - - -	1	28,000
2	Anspach (21) - - -	3	19,000
3	Aschaffenberg (27) -	2	40,000
4	Augsburg (28) - - -	1	24,000
5	Bamberg (32) - - -	1	62,500
6	Bayreuth (35) - -	2	25,000
7	Erlangen (106) - -	1	100,000
8	Munich (204) - - -	2	800,000
9	Nuremberg (217) - -	2	46,000
10	Passau (230) - - -	1	30,000
11	Ratisbon (246) - -	1	20,000
12	Wurzburg (326) - -	1	74,000
	Total - - -	18	1,268,500

(continued)

—	NAME OF TOWN.	Number of Libraries.	Aggregate Number Volumes of of Printed Books
	V.—BELGIUM:		
1	Antwerp (22) - - -	1	15,000
2	Bruges (54) - - -	1	10,000
3	Brussels (55) - - -	2	143,500
4	Courtray (86) - - -	1	12,000
5	Ghent (120) - - -	1	51,600
6	Liege (159) - - -	2	70,000
7	Louvain (167) - - -	2	127,000
8	Mechlin (188) - - -	1	30,000
9	Mons (196) - - -	1	12,000
10	Namur (208) - - -	1	11,000
11	Tournay (287) - - -	1	27,000
	Total - - -	14	509,100
	VI.—BREMEN:		
	Bremen (50) - - -	2	36,000?
	VII.—BRUNSWICK:		
1	*Brunswick* - - -	5	23,000
2	Wolfenbuttel (325) -	1	200,000
	Total - - -	6	223,000
	VIII.—CRACOW		
	Cracow (87) - - -	2	52,000
	IX.—DENMARK:		
1	Altona (14) - - -	1	20,000
2	Copenhagen (83) - -	3	557,000
3	Kiel (146) - - -	1	70,000
	Total - - -	5	647,000
	X.—FRANCE:		
1	Abbeville (2) - -	1	13,000
2	Agen (6) - - - -	1	12,000
3	Aix (7) - - - -	1	80,000
4	Ajaccio (9) - - -	1	140,000
5	*Alais* - - - -	1	3,000
6	Alby (10) - - -	1	12,000
7	Alencon (12) - - -	1	10,000
8	Amiens (17) - - -	2	54,000
9	Angers (19) - - -	1	25,000
10	Angouleme (20) - -	1	16,000
11	*Annonay* - - - -	1	6,000
12	*Arles* - - - -	1	8,000
13	Arras (26) - - -	1	48,000
	France—*continued.*		
14	*Auch* - - - - -	1	7,700
15	*Aurillac* - - - - -	1	6,000
16	Auxerre (29) - - -	1	30,000
17	*Auzonne* - - - - -	1	4,000
18	Avignon (30) - - -	1	35,000
19	Avranches (31) - -	1	10,000
20	*Bastia* - - - - -	1	6,000
21	*Bayeux* - - - - -	1	8,000
22	Beaucaire (36) - -	1	14,000
23	Beaune (37) - - -	1	10,000
24	*Beaune les Dames* - -	1	1,100
25	Beauvais (38) - - -	1	11,000
26	*Belley* - - - - -	1	5,000
27	Besancon (42) - - -	1	60,000
28	Blois (43) - - -	1	20,000
29	Bordeaux (46) - - -	1	110,000
30	Boulogne (47) - - -	1	21,000
31	*Bourbon Vendée* (or *Napoleonville*) - - -	1	5,000
32	Bourg (48) - - -	1	17,000
33	Bourges (49) - - -	1	20,000
34	*Bourmont* - - -	1	8,000
35	Brest (53) - - -	1	20,000
36	*Brignolles* - - - -	1	5,500
37	*Brives* - - - - -	1	2,000
38	Caen (57) - - -	1	30,000
39	Cahors (59) - - -	1	12,000
40	Cambray (60) - - -	1	32,550
41	Carcassone (62) - -	1	20,000
42	Carpentras (65) - -	1	25,000
43	*Castres* - - - - -	1	7,000
44	Chalons sur Marne (68)	1	23,000
45	Chalons sur Saone (69) -	1	10,000
46	Charleville (71) - -	1	22,000
47	Chartres (72) - - -	1	40,000
48	*Chatillon sur Seine* - -	1	7,500
49	Chaumont (73) - -	1	35,000
50	*Châteaudun* - - -	1	5,600
51	*Châteauroux* - - -	1	5,000
52	*Cherbourg* - - -	1	2,300
53	Clermont Ferrand (75) -	1	10,000
54	Colmar (79) - - -	1	36,000
55	*Compeigne* - - -	1	3,000
56	*Constance* - - - -	1	5,000
57	*Dieuze* - - - - -	1	2,000

—	NAME OF TOWN.	Number of Libraries.	Aggregate Number of Volumes of Printed Books.	—	NAME OF TOWN.	Number of Libraries.	Aggregate Number of Volumes of Printed Books.
	France—*continued.*				France—*continued.*		
58	*Digne*	1	3,600	102	*Mont de Marsan*	1	1,200
59	Dijon (93)	1	48,000	103	Montpellier (201)	3	100,000
60	Dole (94)	1	17,620	104	Moulins (203)	1	20,000
61	Douay (96)	1	30,000	105	Nancy (209)	1	25,000
62	*Draguignan*	1	8,000	106	Nantes (210)	1	30,000
63	*Dunkirk*	1	5,000	107	Nemours (212)	1	10,500
64	Epernay (103)	1	10,000	108	*Nevers*	1	8,000
65	Epinal (104)	1	17,000	109	*Neufchateau*	1	7,500
66	Evreux (109)	1	10,000	110	Niort (214)	1	20,000
67	*Falaise*	1	4,000	111	Nismes (215)	1	30,000
68	Fleche (Le) (111)	1	20,000	112	*Noyon*	1	4,000
69	Fontainebleau (113)	1	40,000	113	*Oleron*	1	2,400
70	*Foix*	1	8,000	114	Orleans (221)	1	26,000
71	*Gap*	1	3,600	115	Paris (228)	9	1,474,000
72	*Grasse*	1	6,400	116	Pau (232)	1	15,000
73	Grenoble (131)	1	50,000	117	Perigueux (234)	1	16,000
74	*Guéret*	1	5,000	118	Perpignan (235)	1	15,000
75	Havre (Le) (139)	1	14,000	119	Poitiers (241)	2	28,000
76	*Hazebrouch*	1	3,500	120	*Pont de Vaux*	1	2,000
77	*Hesdin*	1	3,900	121	*Privas*	1	2,000
78	*Joigny*	1	2,100	122	*Puy* (Le)	1	5,000
79	Langres (151)	1	30,000	123	*Quimper*	1	8,000
80	Laon (152)	1	20,000	124	Rambervillers (245)	1	10,000
81	*Laval*	1	2,500	125	*Remiremont*	1	4,500
82	*Lavaur*	1	4,000	126	Rennes (249)	1	35,000
83	Lille (160)	1	22,370	127	Rheims (251)	1	30,000
84	*Libourne*	1	3,000	128	Rhodez (252)	1	10,000
85	Limoges (161)	1	12,000	129	Rochelle (La) (255)	1	20,000
86	*Lons le Saulnier*	1	2,500	130	Rouen (258)	1	48,000
87	Lyons (174)	3	82,000	131	*Saint Dié*	1	9,500
88	Maçon (176)	1	10,000	132	*St. Flour*	1	1,800
89	Mans (Le) (182)	2	60,000	133	*St. Lo*	1	4,500
90	*Mantes*	1	3,400	134	*St. Mihiel*	1	8,000
91	Marseilles (186)	1	50,000	135	St. Brieux (262)	1	20,000
92	*Mende*	1	3,600	136	St. Omers (265)	1	13,000
93	Meaux (187)	1	14,000	137	St. Quentin (266)	1	17,000
94	*Mézieres*	1	4,000	138	St. Ylie (267)	1	10,000
95	Melun (190)	1	10,000	139	Saintes (268)	1	25,000
96	Metz (192)	1	30,000	140	*Saulieu*	1	1,200
97	*Mirecourt*	1	7,000	141	Saumur (271)	1	15,000
98	*Montargis*	1	1,100	142	*Sedan*	1	2,200
99	Montauban (197)	1	10,500	143	*Senlis*	2	12,000
100	Montbelliard (198)	1	10,000	144	Sens (274)	1	10,000
101	Montbrison (199)	1	15,000	145	*Sevres*	1	2,000

(continued)

—	NAME OF TOWN.	Number of Libraries.	Aggregate Number of Volumes of Printed Books.
	France—*continued.*		
146	Soissons (278) - -	1	29,155
147	*Solesmes* - - - -	1	5,000
148	Strasburg (282) - -	1	50,000
149	*Tarascon* - - - -	1	3,000
150	*Tonnerre* - - - -	1	2,300
151	*Toulon* - - - -	1	9,700
152	Toulouse (286) - -	2	60,000
153	Tours (288) - - -	1	35,000
154	*Tulle* - - - -	1	2,500
155	Troyes (292) - - -	1	50,000
156	Valence (298) - - -	1	15,000
157	Valenciennes (300) -	1	13,000
158	Valognes (303) - -	1	12,000
159	*Vannes* - - - -	1	8,000
160	*Vendôme* - - - -	1	3,000
161	Verdun (306) - - -	1	14,000
162	*Verneuil* (Eure) - - -	1	3,000
163	Versailles (308) - -	2	58,000 ?
164	Vesoul (309) - - -	1	23,000 ?
165	Vich (311) - - -	1	10,000
166	Vienne (313) - - -	1	14,000
167	*Villefranche* (Avignon) -	1	7,000
168	*Vire* - - - - -	1	7,000
169	*Vitré* - - - -	1	3,400
	Total - - -	186	4,510,295
	XI.—FRANKFORT-ON-MAINE:		
	Frankfort (115) - -	1	62,000
	XII.—GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND:		
1	Aberdeen (3) - - -	2	46,000
2	Armagh (24) - - -	1	12,500
3	Cambridge (61) - -	5	261,724 ?
4	Dublin (98) - - -	4	143,654
5	Edinburgh (100) - -	3	288,854
6	Glasgow (122) - -	3	80,096
7	London (166) - - -	4	490,500
8	Manchester (180) - -	1	19,900
9	Oxford (223) - - -	8	373,300 ?
10	St. Andrews (261) - -	1	51,265
11	*Warrington* (317) - -	1	4,500
12	Valetta (Malta) (301) -	1	40,000
	Total - - -	34	1,771,493

—	NAME OF TOWN.	Number of Libraries.	Aggregate Number of Volumes of Printed Books.
	XIII.—HAMBURGH:		
	Hamburgh (137) - -	6	200,367
	XIV.—HANOVER:		
1	Goettingen (127) - -	1	350,000
2	Hanover (138) - -	2	105,000
3	Hildesheim (143) - -	1	26,000
4	Luneburg (172) - -	1	11,000
	Total - - -	5	492,000
	XV.—HESSE:		
1	Cassel (66) - - -	1	70,000
2	Fulda (117) - - -	1	30,000
3	Marburg (184) - -	1	75,000
4	Mentz (191) - - -	1	90,000
5	*Rinteln* - - - -	1	8,200
	Total - - -	5	273,200
	XVI.—HESSE-DARMSTADT:		
1	Darmstadt (89) - -	1	200,000
2	Giessen (121) - - -	1	80,000
3	*Worms* - - - -	1	2,600
	Total - - -	3	282,600
	XVII.—HILDBURGHHAUSEN:		
	Hildburghausen (142) -	1	12,000
	XVIII.—HOLLAND:		
1	Amsterdam (18) - -	1	16,000
2	*Deventer* - - - -	1	1,750
3	Franeker (114) - -	1	13,000
4	*Groningen* - - -	1	7,560
5	Hague (134) - - -	1	100,000
6	Leyden (158) - - -	1	70,000
7	Utrecht (297) - - -	1	20,000
	Total - - -	7	228,310
	XIX.—LIPPE DETMOLD:		
	Detmold (92) - - -	1	21,500
	XX.—LUBEC:		
	Lubec (168) - - -	2	52,000
	XXI.—LUCCA:		
	Lucca (169) - - -	1	25,000

—	NAME OF TOWN.	Number of Libraries.	Aggregate Number of Volumes of Printed Books.
	XXII.—LUXEMBURG:		
	Luxemburg (173)	1	19,600
	XXIII.—MECKLENBURGH:		
1	Guestrow (133)	1	14,000
2	Rostock (257)	1	70,000
3	*Schwerin*	1	1,400
	Total	3	85,400
	XXIV.—MECKLENBURGH-STRELITZ:		
	Neustrelitz (213)	1	50,000
	XXV.—MODENA:		
	Modena (194)	1	90,000
	XXVI.—NAPLES AND SICILY:		
1	Catania (67)	1	15,000
2	Monte Cassino (200)	1	18,000
3	Naples (211)	4	290,000
4	Palermo (226)	1	40,000
5	Reggio (248)	1	50,000
	Total	8	413,000
	XXVII.—NASSAU:		
	Wiesbaden	1	50,000
	XXVIII.—OLDENBURGH:		
	Oldenburgh (218)	1	60,000
	XXIX.—PAPAL STATES:		
1	Bologna (44)	2	233,000
2	*Faenza*	1	4,000
3	Ferrara (110)	1	80,000
4	Imola (141)	1	40,000
5	Macerata (175)	1	20,000
6	Perugia (236)	1	30,000
7	Pesaro (237)	1	15,000
8	Ravenna (247)	1	40,000
9	Rimini (254)	1	30,000
10	Rome (256)	6	465,000
	Total	16	957,000
	XXX.—PARMA:		
1	Guastalla (132)	1	12,000
2	Parma (229)	1	100,000
3	Piacenza (239)	1	34,000
	Total	3	146,000

—	NAME OF TOWN.	Number of Libraries.	Aggregate Number of Volumes of Printed Books.
	XXXI.—PORTUGAL:		
1	Coimbra (78)	1	38,000
2	Evora (108)	1	40,000
3	Lisbon (165)	2	98,000
4	Mafra (178)	1	20,000
5	Oporto (220)	1	60,000
6	Tibaens (284)	1	20,000
	Total	7	276,000
	XXXII.—PRUSSIAN STATES:		
1	Aix-la-Chapelle (8)	1	10,000
2	Berlin (40)	2	460,000
3	Bonn (45)	1	100,000
4	Breslau (52)	4	370,000
5	Coblentz (76)	1	12,000
6	Cologne (80)	4	109,300
7	Dantzic (88)	1	30,000
8	Dusseldorf (99)	1	32,000
9	Elbing (102)	1	19,000
10	Erfurt 105	2	43,000
11	Gleiwitz (123)	1	10,000
12	Glogau (124)	1	10,000
13	Goerlitz (126)	2	45,000
14	Greifswald (130)	2	54,850
15	Halberstadt (135)	1	15,000
16	Halle (136)	3	121,000
17	Koenigsberg (149)	2	60,000
18	Lauban (153)	1	15,000
19	*Liegnitz*	1	3,000
20	Magdeburg (179)	2	24,000
21	Munster (205)	2	95,000
22	Neisse (211*)	1	14,000
23	Paderborn (224)	1	40,000
24	Posen (242)	2	64,000
25	*Quedlinburg*	1	4,000
26	Schweidnitz (273)	1	28,000
27	Stralsund (281)	1	20,000
28	*Thorn*	3	12,000
29	*Tilsit*	1	
30	*Torgau*	1	5,000
31	Treves (289)	1	92,300

(*continued*)

—	NAME OF TOWN.	Number of Libraries.	Aggregate Number of Volumes of Printed Books.
	Prussian States—*continued.*		
32	Warmbrunn (316) - -	1	50,000
33	Wernigerode (320) - -	1	40,000
34	Wittenberg (324) - -	1	18,000
35	Zeitz (327) - - -	1	15,000
	Total - - -	53	2,040,450
	XXXIII.—REUSS:		
	Gera - - - - -	1	5,000
	XXXIV.—RUDOLSTADT:		
	Rudolstadt (260) - -	1	46,000
	XXXV.—RUSSIAN EMPIRE:		
1	Abo (4) - - - -	1	20,000
2	Charkoff (70) - -	1	30,000
3	Dorpat (95) - - -	1	67,000
4	Kasan (144) - - -	1	30,000
5	Kief (145) - - -	1	45,000
6	Moscow (202) - - -	1	66,000
7	Petersburgh (238) - -	3	505,900
8	Revel (250) - - -	1	10,000
9	Riga (253) - - -	1	28,190
10	Vladimir (314) - -	1	50,000
	Total - - -	12	852,090
	XXXVI.—SARDINIA AND PIEDMONT:		
1	Alessandria (13) - -	1	15,000
2	Cagliari (58) - - -	1	17,000
3	*Chiavari* - - - - -	1	6,000
4	Genoa (119) - - -	4	120,000
5	Novara (216) - - -	1	12,000
6	*Sassari* - - - -	1	5,000
7	Turin (294) - - -	1	110,000
8	Vercelli (305) - -	1	12,000
	Total - - -	11	297,000
	XXXVII.—SAXE-COBURG GOTHA:		
1	Altenburg (15) - -	1	15,000
2	Coburg (77) - - -	3	82,000
3	Gotha (128) - - -	1	150,000
	Total - - -	5	247,000

—	NAME OF TOWN.	Number of Libraries.	Aggregate Number of Volumes of Printed Books.
	XXXVIII.—SAXE-MEININGEN:		
	Meiningen (189) - -	1	32,000
	XXXIX.—SAXE-WEIMAR:		
1	Jena (143) - - -	1	70,000
2	Weimar (319) - - -	1	110,000
	Total - - -	2	180,000
	XL.—SAXONY:		
1	Dresden (97) - - -	4	340,500
2	*Freiberg* - - - -	1	6,000
3	Leipsic (156) - - -	2	192,000
4	Zittau (328) - - -	1	12,000
5	Zwickau (330) - - -	1	20,000
	Total - - -	9	570,500
	XLI.—SPAIN:		
1	Alcobaça (11) - - -	1	25,000
2	Barcelona (33) - -	3	45,000
3	*Cervera* - - - -	1	4,900
4	Cordova (84) - - -	1	11,000
5	Corunna (85) - - -	1	17,300
6	Escurial (107) - -	1	100,000
7	*Lugo* - - - - -	1	4,200
8	Madrid (177) - - -	2	260,000
9	*Malaga* - - - - -	1	4,400
10	*Mondonedo* - - -	1	2,800
11	Murcia (206) - - -	1	10,000
12	Palma (227) - - -	1	20,000
13	*Peruel* - - - -	1	4,200
14	St. Jago de Compostella (264) - - - -	1	10,000
15	Salamanca (269) - -	1	24,000
16	Seville (275) - - -	2	58,000
17	*Solsona* - - - -	2	3,000
18	Toledo (285) - - -	2	30,000
19	Valencia (299) - -	1	50,000
20	Valladolid (302) - -	2	27,250
	Total - - -	27	711,050

—	NAME OF TOWN.	Number of Libraries.	Aggregate Number of Volumes of Printed Books.
	XLII.—SWEDEN AND NORWAY:		
1	Christiana (74)	1	50,000
2	Linkoeping (163)	1	10,000
3	Lund (171)	1	40,000
4	Skara (277)	1	11,000
5	Stockholm (280)	2	82,000
6	Upsal (296)	1	150,000
7	Westeras (321)	1	10,000
	Total	8	353,000
	XLIII.—SWITZERLAND:		
1	Aarau (1)	1	60,000
2	Basel (34)	1	70,000
3	Berne (41)	1	40,000
4	Einsiedeln (101)	1	21,800
5	Geneva (118)	1	46,000
6	Lausanne (154)	1	20,000
7	Lucerne (170)	1	40,000
8	Muri (207)	1	10,000
9	Saint Gall (263)	2	77,500
10	Schaffhausen (272)	1	30,000
11	Solothurn (279)	1	20,000
12	Zurich (329)	1	45,000
	Total	13	480,300

—	NAME OF TOWN.	Number of Libraries.	Aggregate Number of Volumes of Printed Books.
	XLIV.—TUSCANY:		
1	Arezzo (23)	1	10,000
2	Florence (112)	6	299,000
3	Pisa (240)	1	30,000
4	Sienna (276)	1	50,000
5	Volterra (315)	1	12,000
	Total	10	401,000
	XLV.—WALDECK PYRMONT:		
1	Arolsen (25)	1	30,000
	XLVI.—WIRTEMBERG:		
1	Heilbronn (141)	1	10,000
2	*Reutlingen*	1	6,000
3	Stuttgard (283)	2	197,000
4	Tubingen (293)	1	200,000
5	Ulm (295)	1	20,000
	Total	6	433,000

3. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Prefatory Note on Public Libraries in the United States of America.

There is less difficulty in ascertaining the number and extent of the Public Libraries in the United States of America, than in most of the countries of Europe. And the comparatively recent date of their origin, with other circumstances, seem to make it desirable to take a lower scale, in point of magnitude, than has been taken in respect of European libraries. The following table therefore includes, or is believed to include, all those which contain 5,000 volumes and upwards.

It also appears, on information which I believe to be trustworthy, that many libraries which are, strictly speaking, the private property of associations and corporate bodies, are, in practice, really and essentially public in respect to their use and enjoyment, and ought, therefore, to be included in this enumeration.

Regard being had to the peculiar circumstances which have attended the growth and development of The United States, a glance at the accompanying table will evince that Americans have already reason to be proud of the extent of their establishments in this kind, destined for public advantage, and especially for the furtherance of popular education.

There are in the States at least 81 libraries of 5,000 volumes and upwards, to which the public, more or less restrictedly, have access, and of these 49 are immediately connected with colleges or public schools.

The aggregate number of volumes in these libraries is about 980,413, 200,000 of which are in the State of Massachusetts, 159,000 in the State of Pensylvania, 158,000 in the State of New York, 81,000 in the State of Connecticut, 53,000 in the District of Columbia, 41,000 in the State of Virginia, 38,000 in the State of Maine, 37,000 in the State of Rhode Island, 30,000 in the State of Ohio, 30,000 in the State of South Carolina, 28,000 in the State of New Jersey, 22,000 in the State of New Hampshire.

The number of volumes thus provided in these states respectively, excluding from notice those contained in libraries under 5,000 volumes, appears to be in Rhode Island about 34 to every 100 of the population, in Massachusetts about 27, in Connecticut 26, in Pennsylvania 9, in New Jersey 7, in New Hampshire 7, in Maine 7, in New York 6, in South Carolina 5, in the District of Columbia, containing the capital of the Union, it is 121.

The city of Boston possesses about 73 volumes to every 100 of its inhabitants; Richmond, the capital of Virginia, 59: Philadelphia 53; New York 35; Washington 119.

The library of oldest foundation, and also of greatest extent in the United States, is that of Harvard University, which dates from 1638. In that year John Harvard, the founder of the university, gave his collection of some 260 volumes, chiefly venerable folios, as the nucleus of a library "for public use and advantage." In 1763, it already contained 5,000 volumes, including the fine oriental library of Lightfoot; but in the following year unhappily it was totally destroyed by fire. A subscription was immediately set on foot for its restoration, to which a munificent Englishman, Thomas Hollis, largely contributed, both in money and in books. In 1838, just two centuries after its foundation, Gore Hall, now the handsomest structure in the university, was built for the reception of the library, which had then grown to above 50,000 volumes (*a*). Its present number, including the "society libraries" of the students, is stated at 68,500.

The library of Yale College was founded in 1700; in 1831 it contained 10,000 volumes; it is now stated to contain 34,500 volumes, including the libraries of the Linonian and Calliopean societies. Bishop Berkeley was a munificent benefactor to this library, which also received donations from Newton, Halley, Whiston, and Sir Richard Steele.

The Library Company of Philadelphia was established mainly by the instrumentality of Franklin in 1731, and incorporated in 1742. In 1785 it contained 5,847 volumes; in 1807, 14,457; in 1835, 35,221 (*b*).

In 1751 James Logan of Philadelphia, the friend of Franklin, bequeathed to public use a library of 2,000 volumes, with a house and 30 *l.* per annum to maintain it. This library was greatly increased by his son and his brother. In 1792 it contained nearly 4,000 volumes, and in that year, by an Act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, it was annexed to the collection of the Library Company of Philadelphia (*c*), and the united library, now comprising 55,000 volumes, valuable and well selected, is open to every respectable person for reading or consultation every day (*d*).

The Boston Library Society was founded in 1792, and incorporated in 1794. It now contains about 11,000 volumes, which have been obtained chiefly by purchase.

The library of the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester, grew out of the gift of about 8,000 volumes by Isaiah Thomas, the founder of the society, and the learned annalist of printing in America. It is particularly rich in American history, and contains many valuable MSS. (*e*); its present number of volumes exceeds 13,000. This society has very recently made an extensive and valuable donation of its duplicate books and pamphlets to the library of the British Museum.

The library of the New York Theological Seminary, founded early in the present century, is chiefly composed of the rich Theological library of the Rev. Leander Van Ess (*f*). Columbia College, in New York, and the New York Library Society, were both established in 1754, and the Historical Society in 1804 (*g*). In 1839 the Mercantile Library of New York contained 18,000 volumes (*h*); it now contains about 25,000.

The remarkable bequest by Mr. Smithson, a wealthy Englishman, of a considerable property to the President and Congress of the United States of America, in trust for "the diffusion and advancement of knowledge amongst men," will, it is probable, eventually lead to the formation of a larger and more comprehensive public library than yet exists within the States, unless indeed the efforts of those who may conduct the Smithsonian Institution should be enfeebled by the attempt to occupy too wide a field of exertion at the outset. Already,

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(*a*) Quincy, *History of Harvard University*, vol. i. pp. 10, 11, &c.; ii. 113, 479, &c.

(*b*) *Catalogue of the Books of the Library Company of Philadelphia* (1836), 10.

(*c*) *Catalogue of the Loganian Library* (1837), 6, 7.

(*d*) Putnam, *American Facts*, &c. (1845), 65.

(*e*) *Catalogue of the Library of the American Antiquarian Society* (1837), p. 7.

(*f*) *Gazetteer of New York* (1842), p. 277.

(*g*) Haskel and Smith, *Gazetteer of the United States* (1844).

(*h*) Gourlie, *An Address delivered before the Mercantile Library Association*, (1839), p. 8.

Appendix, No. 1.

Already, in addition to a great library, they propose to form a museum, a chemical laboratory, and an establishment of public lectures; of giving prizes for essays in various departments of literature and science, and of publishing transactions and elementary treatises. And it is much to be doubted, whether the method indicated in the following paragraph of an official report, be either a wise or practicable plan for the formation of a useful library: "It may be easy, and your Committee think desirable, for those who may be charged with the selection of books, to make the Smithsonian library chiefly a supplement alone; to purchase, for the most part, valuable works which are not to be found elsewhere in the Union (i)."

In constructing the following Table I have derived much assistance from a series of articles in the "Serapeum" of 1846; from a list of colleges, &c. in the "American Almanack" for the same year; from the valuable work of Mr. Shattuck on the Statistics of Boston; and from private information obligingly communicated by Mr. Henry Stevens, and others. For any further information, tending to correct errors or supply defects, I shall at any time be very grateful.

London, 19 April 1849. *Edward Edwards.*

(i) *Report of the Organization Committee of the Smithsonian Institution* (1847), p. 17.

No	Names of the Towns, the States to which they belong, and their Libraries.	Population.	When Founded.	Volumes of Printed Books.	No. of Volumes to every 100 of the Population.
1	ALBANY.—*New York*	33,721	- -	- - -	52·0
	New York State Library	- -	- -	17,571 (a)	
2	ALLEGHANY.—*Pennsylvania*	10,089	- -	- - -	59·5
	Western Theological Seminary Library	- -	- -	6,000 (b)	
3	AMHERST.—*Massachusetts*	2,550	- -	- - -	588·2
	Amherst College Library	- -	- -	15,000 (c)	
4	ANDOVER.—*Massachusetts*	5,207	- -	- - -	345·7
	Theological Seminary Library	- -	1808	18,000 (b)	
5	ATHENS.—*Georgia*	4,200	- -	- - -	1083·3
	Franklin College Library	- -	- -	13,000 (b)	
6	AUBURN.—*New York*	5,626	- -	- - -	88·9
	Theological Seminary Library	- -	- -	5,000 (b)	
7	BAIRDSTOWN.—*Kentucky*	1,942	- -	- - -	360·4
	St. Joseph's College Library	- -	- -	7,000 (b)	
8	BALTIMORE.—*Maryland*	102,313	- -	- - -	11·7
	St. Mary's College Library	- -	- -	12,000 (b)	
9	BANGOR.—*Maine*	8,627	- -	- - -	81·1
	Theological Seminary Library	- -	- -	7,000 (b)	
10	BOSTON.—*Massachusetts*	93,383	- -	- - -	73·6
	1. Boston Athenæum Library	- -	- -	45,000 ? (d)	
	2. Boston Society Library	- -	1792	11,000 (d)	
	3. Library of Massachusetts Historical Society	- -	- -	6,000 (d)	
	4. American Library	- -	- -	6,000 (d)	
	5. Massachusetts State Library	- -	- -	5,757 (d)	
	6. Boston Mercantile Library	- -	- -	5,000 (d)	
		TOTAL	- -	78,757	
11	BRINGUEN.—*Louisiana*	—	—	—	
	Jefferson College Library	- -	- -	5,500 (b)	

(a) *Report of the Trustees of the State Library* (1848). Comp. *Catalogue* (1846), p. 290.

(b) *American Almanac* (1846), pp. 180–186.

(c) *Catalogue of Officers* [and] *Students . . . . of Amherst College*, (1847), p. 12.

(d) Comp. Shattuck, *Report of the Census of Boston* (1845), p. 176.

Appendix, No. 1.

	Names of the Towns, the States to which they belong, and their Libraries.	Population.	When Founded.	Volumes of Printed Books.	No. of Volumes to every 100 of the Population.
12	BRUNSWICK.—*Maine*	4,259	- -	- - -	583·7
	Bowdoin College Library	- -	- -	24,860 (*a*)	
13	BURLINGTON.—*Vermont*	4,271	- -	- - -	215·4
	Vermont University Library	- -	- -	9,200 (*a*)	
14	CAMBRIDGE.—*Massachusetts*	8,409	- -	- - -	814·6
	Harvard University Library	- -	1638	68,500 ? (*b*)	
15	CARLISLE.—*Pennsylvania*	4,351	- -	- - -	257·4
	Dickinson College Library	- -	- -	11,200 (*a*)	
16	CHAPEL HILL.—*North Carolina*	—	—	—	
	University Library	- -	- -	10,000 (*a*)	
17	CHARLESTON.—*South Carolina*	29,261	- -	- - -	51·3
	Charleston Library Society	- -	- -	15,000 (*a*)	
18	CHARLOTTEVILLE.—*Virginia*	1,000 ?	- -	- - -	1600·0
	University Library	- -	- -	16,000 (*a*)	
19	CINCINNATI.—*Ohio*	46,338	- -	- - -	33·4
	1. Lane Seminary Library	- -	- -	10,500 (*a*)	
	2. Mercantile Library	- -	- -	5,000 (*c*)	
20	CLINTON.—*New York*	800	- -	- - -	875·0
	Hamilton College Library	- -	- -	7,000 (*a*)	
21	COLUMBIA.—*South Carolina*	3,500	- -	- - -	428·6
	Columbia College Library	- -	- -	15,000 (*a*)	
22	EASTON.—*Pennsylvania*	673	- -	- - -	742.9
	Lafayette College Library	- -	- -	5,000 (*c*)	
23	GAMBIA.—*Ohio*	292	- -	- - -	2962·3
	Kenyon College Library	- -	- -	8,750 (*a*)	
24	GENEVA.—*New York*	3,600	- -	- -	150·0
	Geneva College Library	- -	- -	5,400 (*a*)	
25	GEORGETOWN.—*District of Columbia*	7,313	- -	- - -	341·9
	Georgetown College Library	- -	- -	25,000 (*a*)	
26	GETTYSBURG.—*Pennsylvania*	1,908	- -	- - -	366·9
	Theological Seminary Library	- -	- -	7,000 (*a*)	
27	HANOVER.—*New Hampshire*	2,613	- -	- - -	631·4
	Dartmouth College Library	- -	- -	16,500 (*a*)	
28	HARTFORD.—*Connecticut*	9,468	- -	- - -	168·5
	Mechanics' Library	- -	- -	8,000 (*d*)	
	Trinity College Library	- -	- -	7,949 (*a*)	
29	HUDSON.—*Ohio*	—	—	—	—
	Western Reserve College Library	- -	- -	6,247 (*a*)	
30	MARYVILLE.—*Tennessee*	300	- -	- - -	2000·0
	South Western Theological Seminary Library	-	-	6,000 (*a*)	
31	MEADVILLE.—*Pennsylvania*	1,319	- -	- - -	606·5
	Alleghany College Library	- -	- -	8,000 (*a*)	
32	MIDDLEBURY.—*Vermont*	3,162	- -	- - -	223·1
	Middlebury College Library	- -	- -	7,054 (*a*)	
33	MIDDLETOWN.—*Connecticut*	3,511	- -	- - -	313·3
	Wesleyan University Library	- -	- -	11,000 (*a*)	
34	NASHVILLE.—*Tennessee*	6,929	- -	- - -	144·4
	Nashville University Library	- -	- -	10,000 (*a*)	
35	NEW BRUNSWICK.—*New Jersey*	8,639	- -	- - -	104·2
	Rutger's College Library	- -	- -	9,000 (*a*)	
36	NEWHAVEN.—*Connecticut*	12,960	- -	- - -	270·0
	1. Yale College Library	- -	1700	34,500 ? (*d*)	
	2. Livonian Society Library	- -	- -		
	3. Library of 'Brethren in Unity'	- -	- -		
37	NEWPORT.—*Rhode Island*	8,333	- -	- - -	60·0
	Redwood Library	- -	- -	5,000 (*c*)	

(*a*) *American Almanac*, ut supr.

(*b*) Private Information. Comp. *American Almanac*, ut supr.; Quincy, *Considerations relative to the Library of Harvard University* (1833), p. 4, et seqq.; and Naumann's *Serapeum* (1846), pp. 146–161.

(*c*) *Serapeum*, ut supr.

(*d*) Private information. Comp. Kingsley, *A Sketch of the History of Yale College.*

No.	Names of the Towns, the States to which they belong, and their Libraries.	Population.	When Founded.	Volumes of Printed Books.	No. of Volumes to every 100 of the Population.
38	NEW YORK.—*New York* - -	312,710	- -	- - -	35·0
	1. New York Library Society - -	- -	1754	30,000 (*a*)	
	2. Mercantile Library - - -	- -	- -	25,000 ? (*b*)	
	3. New York Theological Seminary Library - - - - -	- -	- -	16,000 ? (*c*)	
	4. Columbia College Library - -	- -	1754	14,000 (*d*)	
	5. New York Historical Society -	- -	1804	12,000 (*d*)	
	6. Episcopal Theological Seminary Library - - - - -	- -	- -	7,260 (*c*)	
	7. New York Hospital Library -	- -	- -	5,000 (*d*)	
			TOTAL - -	109,260	
39	PHILADELPHIA.—*Pennsylvania* -	228,691	- -	- - -	53·4
	1. Philadelphia Library Company -	- -	1731	55,000 (*b*)	
	2. American Philosophical Society's Library - - - - - -	- -	1740	15,000 (*b*)	
	3. Apprentices' Library - - -	- -	- -	14,000 (*b*)	
	4. Library of the Academy of Natural Sciences - - - - -	- -	1807	9,000 (*b*)	
	5. Pennsylvania Hospital Library -	- -	- -	8,000 (*b*)	
	6. Mercantile Library - - -	- -	1822	6,000 (*b*)	
	7. Philadelphia Athenæum Library	- -	1815	5,000 (*b*)	
	8. Pennsylvania University Library	- -	1791	5,000 (*e*)	
	9. German Society Library - -	- -	- -	5,000 (*b*)	
			TOTAL - -	122,000	
40	PORTSMOUTH.—*New Hampshire* -	7,887	- -	- - -	76·1
	Portsmouth Athenæum Library -	- -	- -	6,000 (*f*)	
41	*PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY.—Virginia* - - - - -	—	—	—	
	Hampden Sidney College - -	- -	- -	8,000 (*e*)	
42	PRINCETOWN.—*New Jersey* - -	2,000	- -	- - -	975·0
	1. New Jersey College - - -	- -	- -	12,500 (*e*)	
	2. Princetown Theological Seminary Library - - - - -	- -	- -	7,000 (*e*)	
43	PROVIDENCE.—*Rhode Island* -	23,171	- -	- - -	138·9
	1. Brown University Library - -	- -	- -	20,000 (*f*)	
	2. Providence Athenæum Library -	- -	1836	12,185 (*g*)	
44	RICHMOND.—*Virginia* - - -	20,153	- -	- - -	59·5
	Virginia State Library - - -	- -	- -	12,000 (*f*)	
45	ST. LOUIS.—*Missouri* - - -	16,469	- -	- - -	87·0
	1. St. Louis University Library -	- -	- -	7,900 (*e*)	
	2. Kempen College Library - -	- -	- -	6,400 (*e*)	
46	SALEM.—*Massachusetts* - - -	15,082	- -	- - -	66·3
	1. Historical Society - - -				
	2. Salem Athenæum Library - -	- -	- -	10,000 ? (*b*)	
	3. Salem Museum Library - -				
47	SCHENECTADY.—*New York* -	6,784	- -	- - -	195·0
	Union College Library - - -	-	- -	13,000 (*e*)	
48	TUSCALOOSA.—*Alabama* - -	1,949	- -	- - -	307·8
	Alabama University Library - -	- -	- -	6,000 (*e*)	
49	WASHINGTON.—*District of Columbia*	23,364	- -	- - -	119·8
	Congress Library - - - -	- -	- -	28,000 (*f*)	
50	WATERVILLE.—*Maine* - -	2,971	- -	- - -	235·6
	Waterville College Library - -	- -	- -	7,000 (*e*)	
51	WILLIAMSBURG.—*Virginia* -	1,600	- -	- - -	312·5
	William and Mary College Library -	- -	- -	5,000 (*e*)	
52	WILLIAMSTOWN.—*Massachusetts*	2,153	- -	- - -	348·3
	Williamstown University Library	- -	- -	7,500 (*e*)	
53	WORCESTER.—*Massachusetts* -	7,497	- -	- - -	174·0
	American Antiquarian Society's Library	- -	- -	13,000 (*b*)	

(*a*) Private information. In the *Serapeum* the number is stated at 40,000, but this includes duplicates, of which the number in the text is exclusive.

(*b*) Private Information.

(*c*) *American Almanac*, ut supr.

(*d*) *Serapeum*, ut supr.

(*e*) *American Almanac*, 1846, pp. 180-186

(*f*) Naumann's *Serapeum*, 1846, pp. 146-161, &c.

(*g*) *Tenth Annual Report of the Directors of the Providence Athenæum*, Sept. 1845, p. 9.

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SUMMARY.

No.	Name of State.	No. of Libraries.	No. of Volumes.	Population of the whole State.	Ratio of Volumes to every 100 of Population.
1	Alabama - - - - - -	1	6,000	590,756	1·1
2	Columbia, District of - - - -	2	53,000	43,712	121·2
3	Connecticut - - - - -	6	81,449	309,978	26·3
4	Georgia - - - - - -	1	13,000	691,392	1·9
5	Kentucky - - - - - -	1	7,000	779,828	0·9
6	Louisiana - - - - - -	1	5,500	352,411	1·6
7	Maine - - - - - -	3	38,860	501,793	7·7
8	Maryland - - - - - -	1	12,000	469,232	2·6
9	Massachusetts - - - - -	14	200,757	737,699	27·2
10	Missouri - - - - - -	2	14,300	383,702	3·7
11	New Hampshire - - - - -	2	22,500	284,574	7·9
12	New Jersey - - - - -	3	28,500	373,306	7·5
13	New York - - - - - -	12	157,411	2,428,921	6·2
14	North Carolina - - - - -	1	10,000	763,419	1·3
15	Ohio - - - - - - -	4	30,497	1,519,467	2·0
16	Pennsylvania - - - - -	14	159,200	1,724,033	9·2
17	Rhode Island - - - - -	3	37,185	108,830	34·2
18	South Carolina - - - - -	2	30,000	594,398	5·0
19	Tennessee - - - - - -	2	16,000	829,210	2·0
20	Vermont - - - - - -	2	16,254	292,948	5·5
21	Virginia - - - - - -	4	41,000	1,239,797	3·3
	TOTAL - - -	81	980,413		

PROGRAMME of ORGANIZATON of the SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, presented to the Board of Regents, 8 December, 1847.

INTRODUCTION.—*General Considerations which should serve as a Guide in adopting a Plan of Organization.*

1. WILL of Smithson. The property is bequeathed to the United States of America, "to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

2. The bequest is for the benefit of mankind. The Government of the United States is merely a trustee to carry out the design of the testator.

3. The institution is not a national establishment, as is frequently supposed, but the establishment of an individual, and is to bear and perpetuate his name.

4. The objects of the institution are—1st, to increase, and 2d, to diffuse knowledge among men.

5. These two objects should not be confounded with one another. The first is to increase the existing stock of knowledge by the addition of new truths; and the second, to disseminate knowledge, thus increased, among men.

6. The will makes no restriction in favour of any particular kind of knowledge; hence all branches are entitled to a share of attention.

7. Knowledge can be increased by different methods of facilitating and promoting the discovery of new truths; and can be most efficiently diffused among men by means of the press.

8. To effect the greatest amount of good, the organization should be such as to enable the institution to produce results, in the way of increasing and diffusing knowledge, which cannot be produced by the existing institutions in our country.

9. The organization should also be such as can be adopted provisionally, can be easily reduced to practice, receive modifications, or be abandoned, in whole or in part, without a sacrifice of the funds.

10. In order to make up for the loss of time occasioned by the delay of eight years in establishing the institution, a considerable portion of the interest which has accrued should be added to the principal.

11. In proportion to the wide field of knowledge to be cultivated, the funds are small. Economy should therefore be consulted in the construction of the building; and not only the first cost of the edifice should be considered, but also the continual expense of keeping it in repair, and of the support of the establishment necessarily connected with it. There should also be but few individuals permanently supported by the institution.

12. The plan and dimensions of the building should be determined by the plan of the organization, and not the converse.

13. It should be recollected that mankind in general are to be benefited by the bequest, and that, therefore, all unnecessary expenditure on local objects would be a perversion of the trust.

14. Besides the foregoing considerations, deduced immediately from the will of Smithson, regard must be had to certain requirements of the Act of Congress establishing the institution. These are, a library, a museum, and a gallery of art, with a building on a liberal scale to contain them.

SECTION 1.

Plan of Organization of the Institution in Accordance with the foregoing Deductions from the Will of Smithson.

To increase knowledge. It is proposed—

1. To stimulate men of talent to make original researches, by offering suitable rewards for memoirs containing new truths; and,

2. To appropriate annually a portion of the income for particular researches, under the direction of suitable persons.

To diffuse knowledge. It is proposed—

1. To publish a series of periodical reports on the progress of the different branches of knowledge; and,

2. To publish occasionally separate treatises on subjects of general interest.

DETAILS OF THE PLAN TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE.

1. *By Stimulating Researches.*

1. Rewards, consisting of money, medals, &c., offered for original memoirs on all branches of knowledge.

2. The memoirs thus obtained to be published in a series of volumes, in a quarto form, and entitled "Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge."

3. No memoir, on subjects of physical science, to be accepted for publication, which does not furnish a positive addition to human knowledge, resting on original research; and all unverified speculations to be rejected.

4. Each memoir presented to the institution to be submitted for examination to a commission of persons of reputation for learning in the branch to which the memoir pertains; and to be accepted for publication only in case the report of this commission is favourable.

5. The commission to be chosen by the officers of the institution, and the name of the author, as far as practicable, concealed unless a favourable decision be made.

6. The volumes of the memoirs to be exchanged for the Transactions of literary and scientific societies, and copies to be given to all the colleges, and principal libraries, in this country. One part of the remaining copies may be offered for sale; and the other carefully preserved, to form complete sets of the work, to supply the demand from new institutions.

7. An abstract, or popular account, of the contents of these memoirs to be given to the public through the annual report of the Regents to Congress.

2. *By appropriating a Portion of the Income, annually, to Special Objects of Research, under the Direction of Suitable Persons.*

1. The objects, and the amount appropriated, to be recommended by counsellors of the institution.

2. Appropriations in different years to different objects; so that in course of time, each branch of knowledge may receive a share.

3. The results obtained from these appropriations to be published, with the memoirs before mentioned, in the volumes of the Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge.

4. Examples of objects for which appropriations may be made.

(1.) System of extended meteorological observations for solving the problem of American storms.

(2.) Explorations in descriptive natural history, and geological, magnetical, and topographical surveys, to collect materials for the formation of a Physical Atlas of the United States.

(3.) Solution of experimental problems, such as a new determination of the weight of the earth, of the velocity of electricity, and of light; chemical analyses of soils and plants; collection and publication of articles of science, accumulated in the offices of Government.

(4.) Institution of statistical inquiries with reference to physical, moral, and political subjects.

(5.) Historical researches, and accurate surveys of places celebrated in American history.

(6.) Ethnological researches, particularly with reference to the different races of men in North America; also explorations, and accurate surveys, of the mounds and other remains of the ancient people of our country.

DETAILS OF THE PLAN FOR DIFFUSING KNOWLEDGE.

I.—*By the publication of a Series of Reports, giving an Account of the New Discoveries in Science, and of the Changes made from year to year in all Branches of Knowledge not strictly professional.*

1. These reports will diffuse a kind of knowledge generally interesting, but which, at present, is inaccessible to the public. Some of the reports may be published annually,

others at longer intervals, as the income of the institution or the changes in the branches of knowledge may indicate.

2. The reports are to be prepared by collaborators, eminent in the different branches of knowledge.

3. Each collaborator to be furnished with the journals and publications, domestic and foreign, necessary to the compilation of his report; to be paid a certain sum for his labours, and to be named on the title page of the report.

4. The reports to be published in separate parts, so that persons interested in a particular branch can procure the parts relating to it without purchasing the whole.

5. These reports may be presented to Congress, for partial distribution, the remaining copies to be given to literary and scientific institutions, and sold to individuals for a moderate price.

The following are some of the subjects which may be embraced in the reports:—

1. Physical Class.

1. Physics, including astronomy, natural philosophy, chemistry, and meteorology.
2. Natural history, including botany, zoology, geology, &c.
3. Agriculture.
4. Application of science to arts.

2. Moral and Political Class.

5. Ethnology, including particular history, comparative philology, antiquities, &c.
6. Statistics and political economy.
7. Mental and moral philosophy.
8. A survey of the political events of the world; penal reform, &c.

3. Literature and the Fine Arts.

9. Modern literature.
10. The fine arts, and their application to the useful arts.
11. Bibliography.
12. Obituary notices of distinguished individuals.

II.—*By the publication of separate Treatises on subjects of General Interest.*

1. These treatises may occasionally consist of valuable memoirs translated from foreign languages, or of articles prepared under the direction of the institution, or procured by offering premiums for the best exposition of a given subject.

2. The treatises should, in all cases, be submitted to a commission of competent judges, previous to their publication.

3. As examples of these treatises, expositions may be obtained of the present state of the several branches of knowledge mentioned in the table of reports. Also of the following subjects suggested by the Committee on Organization, viz., the statistics of labour, the productive arts of life, public instruction, &c.

Section II.

Plan of Organization, in Accordance with the Terms of the Resolutions of the Board of Regents for the Two Modes of Increasing and Diffusing Knowledge.

1. The Act of Congress establishing the institution contemplated the formation of a library and a museum; and the Board of Regents, including these objects in the plan of organization, resolved to divide the income into two equal parts.

2. One part to be appropriated to increase and diffuse knowledge by means of publications and researches, agreeably to the scheme before given. The other part to be appropriated to the formation of a library and a collection of objects of nature and of art.

3. These two plans are not incompatible with one another.

4. To carry out the plan before described, a library will be required, consisting, 1st, of a complete collection of the transactions and proceedings of all the learned societies in the world; 2d, of the more important current periodical publications, and other works necessary in preparing the periodical reports.

5. The institution should make special collections, particularly of objects to verify its own publications.

6. Also a collection of instruments of research in all branches of experimental science.

7. With reference to the collection of books, other than those mentioned above, catalogues of all the different libraries in the United States should be procured, in order that the valuable books first purchased may be such as are not to be found in the United States.

8. Also catalogues of memoirs, and of books in foreign libraries, and other materials, should be collected for rendering the institution a centre of bibliographical knowledge, whence the student may be directed to any work which he may require.

9. It is believed that the collections in natural history will increase by donation as rapidly as the income of the institution can make provision for their reception, and therefore it will seldom be necessary to purchase any articles of this kind.

10. Attempts should be made to procure for the gallery of arts casts of the most celebrated articles of ancient and modern sculpture.

11. The

Appendix, No. 1.

11. The arts may be encouraged by providing a room, free of expense, for the exhibition of the objects of the Art-Union and other similar societies.

12. A small appppropriation should annually be made for models of antiquities, such as those of the remains of ancient temples, &c.

13. For the present, or until the building is fully completed, besides the secretary, no permanent assistant will be required, except one, to act as librarian.

14. The duty of the secretary will be the general superintendence, with the advice of the chancellor and other members of the establishment, of the literary and scientific operations of the institution; to give to the Regents annually an account of all the transactions; of the memoirs which have been received for publication; of the researches which have been made; and to edit, with the assistance of the librarian, the publications of the institution.

15. The duty of the assistant secretary, acting as librarian, will be, for the present, to assist in taking charge of the collections, to select and purchase, under the direction of the secretary and a committee of the Board, books and catalogues, and to procure the information before mentioned; to give information on plans of libraries, and to assist the secretary in editing the publications of the institutions, and in the other duties of his office.

16. The secretary and his assistants, during the session of Congress, will be required to illustrate new discoveries in science, and to exhibit new objects of art; distinguished individuals should also be invited to give lectures on subjects of general interest.

17. When the building is completed, and when, in accordance with the Act of Congress, the charge of the National Museum is given to the Smithsonian Institution, other assistants will be required.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

II.—AN ACCOUNT of the Sums Granted by Parliament for the Support of PUBLIC LIBRARIES and MUSEUMS in the UNITED KINGDOM, from the Year 1823 to the Year 1848, both inclusive.

ENGLAND.

YEAR.	1. BRITISH MUSEUM. For Purchases and Establishment.	1. BRITISH MUSEUM. For Buildings.	2. SION COLLEGE LIBRARY.	3. SCHOOLS OF DESIGN. (Including a Library of Works on Design, &c.)	4. MUSEUM OF GEOLOGY.	YEARLY TOTALS.	YEAR.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
1823	8,766 – –	40,000 – –	- - -	- - -	- - -	48,766 – –	1823
1824	4,847 – –	40,000 – –	- - -	- - -	- - -	44,847 – –	1824
1825	22,916 – –	40,000 – –	- - -	- - -	- - -	62,916 – –	1825
1826	13,992 – –	25,000 – –	- - -	- - -	- - -	38,992 – –	1826
1827	12,877 – –	12,000 – –	- - -	- - -	- - -	24,877 – –	1827
1828	16,649 – –	43,600 – –	- - -	- - -	- - -	60,249 – –	1828
1829	19,889 – –	13,000 – –	- - -	- - -	- - -	32,889 – –	1829
1830	16,143 – –	10,000 – –	- - -	- - -	- - -	26,143 – –	1830
1831	14,450 – –	12,000 – –	- - -	- - -	- - -	26,450 – –	1831
1832	16,992 – –	10,000 – –	- - -	- - -	- - -	26,992 – –	1832
1833	16,844 – –	24,000 – –	- - -	- - -	- - -	40,844 – –	1833
1834	20,827 – –	8,000 – –	- - -	- - -	- - -	28,827 – –	1834
1835	23,796 – –	16,000 – –	- - -	- - -	- - -	39,796 – –	1835
1836	31,224 – –	25,860 – –	- - -	1,500 – –	100 – –	58,684 – –	1836
1837	32,175 – –	14,250 – –	363 15 2	- - -	250 – –	47,038 15 2	1837
1838	28,719 – –	18,096 – –	363 15 2	- - -	150 – –	47,428 15 2	1838
1839	34,651 – –	21,500 – –	363 15 2	385 – –	1,738 – –	58,637 15 2	1839
1840	31,753 – –	54,050 – –	363 15 2	1,300 – –	2,950 – –	90,416 15 2	1840
1841	38,666 – –	42,404 – –	363 15 2	10,000 – – (Provincial Schools.) 1,590 – – (Central Schools.)	1,689 – –	94,712 15 2	1841
1842	35,076 – –	33,748 – –	363 15 2	3,147 – –	2,018 – –	74,352 15 2	1842
1843	37,851 – –	37,485 – –	363 15 2	4,411 – –	2,008 – –	82,118 15 2	1843
1844	41,232 – –	46,030 – –	363 15 2	4,411 – –	2,300 – –	94,336 15 2	1844
1845	53,132 – –	52,020 – –	363 15 2	4,911 – –	8,850 – –	119,276 15 2	1845
1846	45,406 – –	45,494 – –	363 15 2	5,381 – –	10,911 – –	107,555 15 2	1846
1847	51,670 – –	47,959 – –	363 15 2	6,500 – –	8,961 – –	115,453 15 2	1847
1848	57,211 – –	42,038 – –	363 15 2	10,000 – –	10,798 – –	120,410 15 2	1848
£.	727,754 – –	774,534 – –	4,366 2 –	53,536 – –	52,723 – –	1,612,913 2 –	

TOTAL FOR ENGLAND - - £. 1,612,913 2 – Including £. 774,534 for Buildings.

II.—Account of the Sums Granted by Parliament for the Support of Public Libraries, &c.—*continued.*

SCOTLAND.

YEAR.	1. LIBRARY OF KING'S COLLEGE, ABERDEEN.			2. LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREW'S.			3. LIBRARY OF EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.			4. LIBRARY OF GLASGOW UNIVERSITY.			5. EDINBURGH MUSEUM.			YEARLY TOTALS.			YEAR.
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
1823 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	–	–	100	–	–	1823
1824 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	–	–	100	–	–	1824
1825 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	–	–	100	–	–	1825
1826 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,600	–	–	5,600	–	–	1826
1827 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	–	–	100	–	–	1827
1828 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	–	–	100	–	–	1828
1829 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	–	–	100	–	–	1829
1830 -	—			—			—			—			—			—			1830
1831 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	–	–	200	–	–	1831
1832 -	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	–	–	200	–	–	1832
1833 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	197	5	2	197	5	2	1833
1834 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	–	–	200	–	–	1834
1835 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	–	–	200	–	–	1835
1836 -	320	–	–	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	–	–	520	–	–	1836
1837 -	320	–	–	630	–	–	575	–	–	707	–	–	5,200	–	–	7,432	–	–	1837
1838 -	320	–	–	630	–	–	575	–	–	707	–	–	200	–	–	2,432	–	–	1838
1839 -	320	–	–	630	–	–	575	–	–	707	–	–	200	–	–	2,432	–	–	1839
1840 -	320	–	–	630	–	–	575	–	–	707	–	–	200	–	–	2,432	–	–	1840
1841 -	320	–	–	630	–	–	575	–	–	707	–	–	200	–	–	2,432	–	–	1841
1842 -	320	–	–	630	–	–	575	–	–	707	–	–	200	–	–	2,432	–	–	1842
1843 -	320	–	–	630	–	–	575	–	–	707	–	–	200	–	–	2,432	–	–	1843
1844 -	320	–	–	630	–	–	575	–	–	707	–	–	200	–	–	2,432	–	–	1844
1845 -	320	–	–	630	–	–	575	–	–	707	–	–	200	–	–	2,432	–	–	1845
1846 -	320	–	–	630	–	–	575	–	–	707	–	–	200	–	–	2,432	–	–	1846
1847 -	320	–	–	630	–	–	575	–	–	707	–	–	200	–	–	2,432	–	–	1847
1848 -	320	–	–	630	–	–	575	–	–	707	–	–	200	–	–	2,432	–	–	1848
£.	4,160	–	–	7,560	–	–	6,900	–	–	8,484	–	–	14,797	5	2	41,901	5	2	

Total for the Four University Libraries of Scotland - - £.27,104 – –

Grand Total for Scotland - - - - £.41,901 5 2

II.—Account of the Sums Granted by Parliament for the Support of Public Libraries, &c.—*continued.*

IRELAND.

YEAR.	1. LIBRARY OF THE KINGS' INNS, DUBLIN.			2. ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY. [Including a Museum and Library.]			3. ROYAL HIBERNIAN ACADEMY. [Including a Library.]			4. ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.* [Including a Library.]			YEARLY TOTALS.			YEAR.
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
1823 - - -	-	-	-	7,000	–	–	-	-	-	325	–	–	7,325	–	–	1823
1824 - - -	-	-	-	7,000	–	–	-	-	-	650	–	–	7,650	–	–	1824
1825 - - -	-	-	-	7,000	–	–	-	-	-	325	–	–	7,325	–	–	1825
1826 - - -	-	-	-	7,000	–	–	-	-	-	300	–	–	7,300	–	–	1826
1827 - - -	-	-	-	7,000	–	–	-	-	-	300	–	–	7,300	–	–	1827
1828 - - -	-	-	-	7,000	–	–	-	-	-	300	–	–	7,300	–	–	1828
1829 - - -	-	-	-	7,000	–	–	-	-	-	300	–	–	7,300	–	–	1829
1830 - - -	-	-	-	5,250	–	–	-	-	-	300	–	–	5,550	–	–	1830
1831 - - -	-	-	-	5,500	–	–	-	-	-	356	7	3	5,856	7	3	1831
1832 - - -	-	-	-	6,225	–	–	-	-	-	346	12	9	6,571	12	9	1832
1833 - - -	-	-	-	5,300	–	–	-	-	-	375	–	–	5,675	–	–	1833
1834 - - -	-	-	-	5,300	–	–	300	–	–	300	–	–	5,900	–	–	1834
1835 - - -	-	-	-	5,300	–	–	300	–	–	300	–	–	5,900	–	–	1835
1836 - - -	-	-	-	5,300	–	–	300	–	–	300	–	–	5,900	–	–	1836
1837 - - -	433	6	8	5,300	–	–	300	–	–	300	–	–	6,333	6	8	1837
1838 - - -	433	6	8	5,300	–	–	300	–	–	300	–	–	6,333	6	8	1838
1839 - - -	433	6	8	5,300	–	–	300	–	–	300	–	–	6,333	6	8	1839
1840 - - -	433	6	8	5,300	–	–	300	–	–	300	–	–	6,333	6	8	1840
1841 - - -	433	6	8	5,000	–	–	300	–	–	300	–	–	6,033	6	8	1841
1842 - - -	433	6	8	5,000	–	–	300	–	–	300	–	–	6,033	6	8	1842
1843 - - -	433	6	8	5,600	–	–	300	–	–	300	–	–	6,633	6	8	1843
1844 - - -	433	6	8	5,850	–	–	300	–	–	900†	–	–	7,483	6	8	1844
1845 - - -	433	6	8	5,910	–	–	300	–	–	300	–	–	6,943	6	8	1845
1846 - - -	433	6	8	6,082	–	–	300	–	–	300	–	–	7,115	6	8	1846
1847 - - -	433	6	8	6,000	–	–	300	–	–	300	–	–	7,033	6	8	1847
1848 - - -	433	6	8	6,000	–	–	300	–	–	300	–	–	7,033	6	8	1848
£.	5,200	–	–	153,817	–	–	4,500	–	–	8,978	–	–	172,495	–	–	

Total for Ireland - - - - - - - £. 172,495 – –

* The whole amount expended by the Royal Irish Academy in the purchase of printed books, from 1787 to 1849, is 4,004 *l.*; and that expended in the purchase of Irish MSS., from 1830 to 1848, 2,557 *l.*

† In this year an additional grant of 600 *l.* was sanctioned by the Treasury, in aid of the purchase of a valuable collection of Irish MSS., towards which purchase 772 *l.* was raised by voluntary subscription.

SUMMARY.

	£.	s.	d.
Total for England (including 774,534 *l.* for buildings) - - - - -	1,612,913	2	–
Total for Scotland - - - - - - - - - - -	41,901	5	2
Total for Ireland - - - - - - - - - - -	172,495	–	–
Aggregate Total - - - £.	1,827,309	7	2
Yearly Average of the whole - - - £.	70,281	2	–
Yearly Average, excluding the sum devoted to building purposes - - - £.	40,491	6	–

Appendix, No. 1.

III.—AN ACCOUNT of the Sums Expended on the LIBRARY of the BRITISH MUSEUM, from its Foundation in the Year 1753 to the Year 1848, both inclusive.

YEARS.	Expenditure in Purchase of Manuscripts.			Expenditure in Purchase of Printed Books.			Estimated Proportion of Expenses of General Establishment (being one-third of the whole).			Approximate Total Expenditure for Library.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1753-1762	10,000	–	–	6,000	–	– ?	14,092	15	9	30,092	15	9
1763	-	-	-	32	15	6	627	11	6	660	7	–
1764	-	-	-	23	11	8	649	15	11	673	7	7
1765	-	-	-	10	12	6	599	3	6	609	16	–
1766	-	-	-	2	8	6	628	3	6	630	12	–
1767	-	-	-	22	4	6	589	3	2	611	7	8
1768	-	-	-	1	10	6	636	2	2	637	12	8
1769	-	-	-	14	6	–	723	4	11	737	10	11
1770	-	-	-	221	2	–	618	12	1	839	14	1
1771	-	-	-	142	3	–	694	8	4	836	11	4
1772	-	-	-	35	7	6	652	14	7	688	2	1
1773	-	-	-	70	13	6	739	6	1	809	19	7
1774	-	-	-	37	1	–	941	19	2	979	–	2
1775	-	-	-	160	17	6	692	9	7	853	7	1
1776	-	-	-	219	12	6	674	13	9	894	6	3
1777	-	-	-	54	19	6	816	11	9	871	11	
1778	-	-	-	173	16	9	884	5	4	1,058	2	1
1779	-	-	-	102	7	6	774	3	4	876	10	10
1780	-	-	-	94	7	6	1,039	14	4	1,134	1	10
1781	-	-	-	238	5	2	709	2	11	947	8	1
1782	-	-	-	169	16	6	804	2	2	973	18	8
1783	-	-	-	197	3	2	728	8	3	925	11	5
1784	-	-	-	389	10	2	716	4	10	1,105	15	–
1785	150	–	–	237	19	4	902	18	10	1,290	18	2
1786	-	-	-	144	4	–	675	19	8	820	3	8
1787	40	–	–	59	10	6	810	12	10	910	3	4
1788	25	–	–	58	14	9	697	2	8	780	17	5
1789	25	–	–	215	2	5	820	17	8	1,061	–	1
1790	12	10	–	75	–	–	606	–	1	693	10	1
1791	-	-	-	183	2	–	656	13	10	839	15	10
1792	-	-	-	250	–	–	649	12	–	899	12	–
1793	-	-	-	205	19	5	710	18	9	916	18	2
1794	50	–	–	420	15	6	969	18	2	1,441	13	8
1795	313	–	–	61	14	–	671	18	1	1,046	12	1
1796	375	–	–	-	-	-	814	9	2	1,189	9	2
1797	-	-	-	29	3	6	922	11	8	951	15	2
1798	-	-	-	126	5	–	762	2	–	888	7	–
1799	25	–	–	75	–	–	736	12	3	836	12	3
1800	-	-	-	120	10	6	1,193	12	11	1,314	3	5
1801	-	-	-	293	5	6	1,447	17	5	1,741	2	11
1802	-	-	-	435	11	–	1,116	19	2	1,552	10	2
1803	-	-	-	283	8	6	1,424	8	8	1,707	17	2
1804	-	-	-	485	18	6	1,910	1	10	2,396	–	4
1805	25	–	–	348	14	6	1,249	11	5	1,623	5	11
1806	-		-	246	15	8	1,470	17	9	1,717	13	5

Appendix, No. 1.

III.—An Account of the Sums Expended on the Library of the British Museum—*continued.*

YEARS.	Expenditure in Purchase of Manuscripts.			Expenditure in Purchase of Printed Books.			Estimated Proportion of Expenses of General Establishment (being one-third of the whole).			Approximated Total Expenditure for Library.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1807 - - -	-	-	-	518	15	–	1,520	6	5	2,039	1	5
1808 - - -	-	-	-	190	10	6	1,795	10	10	1,986	1	4
1809 - - -	25	–	–	253	17	6	2,502	7	6	2,781	5	–
1810 - - -	400	–	–	532	4	–	2,078	17	6	3,011	1	6
1811 - - -	-	-	-	300	1	6	3,976	19	10	4,277	1	4
1812 - - -	-	-	-	872	12	3	2,410	15	10	3,283	8	1
1813 - - -	-	-	-	738	15	8	2,865	14	4	3,604	10	–
1814 - - -	-	-	-	596	11	–	4,314	4	3	4,910	15	3
1815 - - -	200	–	–	6,119	15	7	2,710	7	10	9,030	3	5
1816 - - -	-	-	-	1,010	9	2	3,312	8	4	4,322	17	6
1817 - - -	-	-	-	1,039	13	2	3,338	10	3	4,378	3	5
1818 - - -	3,000	-	–	11,711	6	1	3,098	9	11	17,809	16	–
1819 - - -	-	-	-	307	16	2	3,217	3	5	3,524	19	7
1820 - - -	11	5	–	290	12	2	3,063	11	11	3,365	9	1
1821 - - -	69	14	–	216	2	–	3,110	17	–	3,396	13	–
1822 - - -	-	-	-	234	17	6	2,897	3	1	3,132	–	7
1823 - - -	-	-	-	239	17	6	1,888	10	7	2,128	8	1
1824 - - -	25	10	–	478	12	–	2,959	1	–	3,463	3	–
1825 - - -	16	15	–	646	3	1	3,872	16	1	4,535	14	2
1826 - - -	33	16	6	490	10	9	4,198	18	9	4,723	6	–
1827 - - -	34	14	–	445	16	–	4,496	8	2	4,976	18	2
1828 - - -	-	-	-	420	9	1	5,141	–	5	5,561	9	6
1829 - - -	464	–	6	770	11	–	6,087	16	1	7,322	7	7
1830 - - -	599	3	3	1,084	18	2	4,891	–	1 *	6,575	1	6
1831 - - -	471	4	–	1,062	19	9	4,622	8	8	6,156	12	5
1832 - - -	1,720	2	5	1,032	8	4	4,655	7	3	7,407	18	-
1833 - - -	684	10	–	1,359	13	6	4,767	6	5	6,811	9	11
1834 - - -	859	17	–	1,974	9	11	4,858	5	4	7,692	12	3
1835 - - -	544	2	–	1,969	15	8	5,007	8	7	7,521	6	3
1836 - - -	3,474	2	–	2,000	6	3	5,484	19	9	10,959	8	–
1837 - - -	1,069	6	6	2,944	3	2	6,928	4	5	10,941	14	1
1838 - - -	731	7	–	4,218	14	6	7,376	15	11	12,326	17	5
1839 - - -	744	7	4	2,841	7	6	8,087	14	9	11,673	9	7
1840 - - -	1,091	1	–	2,768	3	9	7,919	12	2	11,778	16	11
1841 - - -	2.947	3	–	3,311	7	5	8,009	–	–	14,267	10	5
1842 - - -	2,138	7	2	3,192	4	1	8,630	11	11	13,961	3	2
1843 - - -	2,272	3	–	5,091	11	3	8,614	10	4 †	15,978	4	7
1844 - - -	1,968	6	6	7,738	10	–	8,721	10	4	18,428	6	10
1845 - - -	1,980	17	6	5,672	16	8	10 605	17	8	18,259	11	10
1846 - - -	2,233	7	2	8,984	7	2	9,757	12	–	20,975	6	4
1847 - - -	2,090	–	–	9,999	15	8	10,205	7	1	22,295	2	9
1848 - - -	2,395	10	6	8,623	16	1	10,379	6	5	21,398	13	–
GRAND TOTAL - £.	45,336	2	4	117,068	14	6	265,635	12	2	428,040	9	–

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* The sums bracketed include Parliamentary grants, amounting to 5,355 *l.*, for the production of a General *Classed* Catalogue of the Printed Books, which was, in the year 1826, directed to be prepared and printed.

† The sums bracketed include Parliamentary grants, amounting to 13,169 *l.*, for the production of a General *Alphabetical* Catalogue of the Printed Books, which was, in the year 1839, directed to be prepared and printed. Of this sum, 12,397 *l.* has been expended on the preparation of the MS., and 772 *l.* on the printing of the first volume.

FRANCE. - - - - - - -

IV.—AN ACCOUNT of the SUMS granted by the FRENCH CHAMBERS for the Support of PUBLIC

YEARS.	1. NATIONAL LIBRARY. For Establishment and Acquisitions.	2. MAZARINE LIBRARY. For Establishment and Acquisitions.	3. ARSENAL LIBRARY. For Establishment and Acquisitions.	4. ST. GENEVIEVE LIBRARY. For Establishment and Acquisitions.	5. Academies and Library of the Institute. For Establishment and Acquisitions.	6. Museum and Library of Natural History. For Establishment and Acquisitions.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1823 - - -	8,000 - -	1,424 - -	1,222 - -	1,480 - -	16,760 - -	13,000 - -
1824 - - -	8.030 - -	1,400 - -	1,320 - -	1,480 - -	16,880 - -	13,000 - -
1825 - - -	7,996 - -	1,400 - -	1,320 - -	1,480 - -	16.900 - -	13,000 - -
1826 - - -	7,996 - -	1,400 - -	1,320 - -	1,480 - -	16,936 - -	13,160 - -
1827 - - -	7,996 - -	1,400 - -	1,320 - -	1,480 - -	16,936 - -	13,160 - -
1828 - - -	7,996 - -	1,400 - -	1,320 - -	1,480 - -	16,936 - -	13,160 - -
1829 - - -	8,200 - -	1,400 - -	1,320 - -	1,480 - -	17,017 - -	13,520 - -
1830 - - -	8,200 - -	1,400 - -	1,320 - -	1,480 - -	17,017 - -	13,400 - -
1831 - - -	8,200 - -	1,400 - -	1,320 - -	1,480 - -	17.017 - -	13,520 - -
1832 - - -	8,200 - -	1,400 - -	1,320 - -	1,480 - -	17,017 - -	13,520 - -
1833 - - -	8,320 - -	1,400 - -	1,320 - -	1,480 - -	17,017 - -	13,520 - -
1834 - - -	9,560 - -	1,400 - -	1,440 - -	1,620 - -	19.760 - -	14,560 - -
1835 - - -	10,960 - -	1,400 - -	1,440 - -	1,620 - -	20,120 - -	15,360 - -
1836 - - -	11,040 - -	1.400 - -	1,440 - -	1,620 - -	20,124 - -	17,620 - -
1837 - - -	11,019 - -	1,400 - -	1,440 - -	1,618 - -	20,124 - -	17,360 - -
1838 - - -	10,959 - -	1,400 - -	1,440 - -	3,549 - -	20,124 - -	18,894 - -
1839 - - -	15,240 - -	1,400 - -	1,440 - -	2,929 - -	20,960 - -	19,218 - -
1840 - - -	15,240 - -	1,440 - -	1,440 - -	3,009 - -	22,480 - -	19,218 - -
1841 - - -	15,160 - -	1,440 - -	1,440 - -	3,009 - -	22,740 - -	19,280 - -
1842 - - -	15,160 - -	1,440 - -	1,440 - -	3,009 - -	22,480 - -	19,218 - -
1843 - - -	16,256 - -	1,440 - -	1,440 - -	3,009 - -	22,790 - -	19,218 - -
1844 - - -	15,544 - -	1,440 - -	1,440 - -	3,009 - -	23,040 - -	19,218 - -
1845 - - -	15,544 - -	1,440 - -	1,440 - -	3,009 - -	23,040 - -	19,218 - -
1846 - - -	15,544 - -	1,440 - -	1,440 - -	3,009 - -	22,640 - -	19,486 - -
1847 - - -	15,544 - -	1,440 - -	1,440 - -	3,009 - -	23.392 - -	19,886 - -
1848 - - -	15,544 - -	1,440 - -	1,440 - -	3,009 - -	23,392 - -	19,886 - -
Total for Establishment & Acquisitions £.	297,448 - -	36,784 - -	36,022 - -	56,317 - -	513,639 - -	423,600 - -

YEARS.	For Building and Repairs.	For Building and Repairs.	For Building and Repairs.	For Building and Repairs.	For Building and Repairs.	For Building and Repairs.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1823 - - -						
1824 - - -	1,500* - -	- - -	90* - -	90* - -	720* - -	
1825 - - -						
1826 - - -	545 - -	- *See Academies and Library of the Institute.* -	32 - -	32 - -	240 - -	
1827 - - -	500* - -	- -	- - -	- - - -	- - - -	
1828 - - -	854 - -	- -	255 - -	241 - -	1,775 - -	
1829 - - -	966 - -	- -	492 - -	156 - -	1,060 - -	
1830 - - -						153,134 - -
1831 - - -						
1832 - - -	5,700* - -	- -	1,575* - -	750* - -	5,015* - -	
1833 - - -						
1834 - - -						
1835 - - -	848 - -	- -	65 - -	14 - -	2,548 - -	
1836 - - -	498 - -	- -	280 - -	153 - -	499 - -	
1837 - - -	508 - -	- -	482 - -	495 - -	704 - -	
1838 - - -	923 - -	- -	674 - -	471 - -	743 - -	18,610 - -
1839 - - -	2,357 - -	- -	409 - -	456 - -	3,668 - -	7,325 - -
1840 - - -	1,193 - -	- -	205 - -	217 - -	3,602 - -	6,082 - -
1841 - - -	- - - -	- -	- - -	- - - -		
1842 - - -	- - - -	- -	- - -	- - - -		
1843 - - -	- - - -	- -	- - -	- - - -		
1844 - - -	9,120* - -	- - -	3,280* - -	71,000 - -	12,000* - -	16,000* - -
1845 - - -						
1846 - - -	- - - -	- - -	- - -	- - - -		
1847 - - -	- - - -	- - -	- - -	- - - -		
1848 - - -	- - - -	- - -	- - -	- - - -		
Total for Buildings & Repairs £.	25,512 - -	- - -	7,839 - -	74,075 - -	32,574 - -	201,151 - -
AGGREGATE TOTAL - £.	322,960 - -	36,784 - -	43,861 - -	130,392 - -	546,213 - -	624,751 - -

- - - - - - - FRANCE.

Libraries and Museums in *France*, from the Year 1823 to the Year 1848, both inclusive.

YEARS.	7. Board of Longitude; Observatory, and its Library, — For Establishment and Acquisitions.	8. Conservatories of Music, and Library. — For Establishment and Acquisitions.	9. Schools of the Fine Arts, and of Design, (including Libraries.) — For Establishment and Acquisitions.	10. University Library at Paris. — For Establishment and Acquisitions.	11. Grants in aid of Libraries and Museums in the Departments.	12. French Academy at Rome, (including a Library). — For Establishment and Acquisitions.	13. Encouragements and Subscriptions to Literary, Scientific, and Artistic Works, (partly for presentation to the Public Libraries); including Votes for the Purchase of Special Collections, Scientific Voyages and Missions; Expenses of the Inspectors of Libraries, &c.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1823 - -	4,283 – –	Charged on the Civil List.	5,315 – –	588 – –	- - -	6,227 – –	21,200 – –
1824 - -	4,600 – –		5,501 – –	588 – –	- - -	4,750 – –	21,000 – –
1825 - -	4,600 – –		5,394 – –	588 – –	- - -	4,553 – –	14,340 – –
1826 - -	4,602 – –		5,394 – –	588 – –	- - -	4,553 – –	14,340 – –
1827 - -	4,602 – –		5,394 – –	588 – –	- - -	4,553 – –	14,340 – –
1828 - -	4,602 – –		5,132 – –	400 – –	- - -	4,553 – –	14,340 – –
1829 - -	4,548 – –		5,626 – –	400 – –	- - -	4,613 – –	15,537 – –
1830 - -	4,548 – –		5,626 – –	400 – –	- - -	4,613 – –	15,537 – –
1831 - -	4,548 – –		5,626 – –	400 – –	- - -	4,613 – –	15,537 – –
1832 - -	4,543 – –		5,626 – –	400 – –	- - -	4,613 – –	17,165 – –
1833 - -	4,548 – –		5,626 – –	400 – –	- - -	4,613 – –	15,760 – –
1834 - -	4,240 – –		5,626 – –	400 – –	- - -	4,613 – –	18,264 – –
1835 - -	4,240 – –		5,626 – –	400 – –	- - -	4,613 – –	23,664 – –
1836 - -	4,240 – –		5,626 – –	400 – –	- - -	4,613 – –	19,660 – –
1837 - -	4,240 – –	6,257 – –	5,921 – –	396 – –	1,200 – –	4,160 – –	19,660 – –
1838 - -	4,240 – –	6,257 – –	5,921 – –	401 – –	1,320 – –	4,613 – –	19,660 – –
1839 - -	4,870 – –	5,837 – –	6,520 – –	400 – –	1,300 – –	5,459 – –	19,660 – –
1840 - -	4,870 – –	6,314 – –	6,788 – –	400 – –	1,300 – –	4,936 – –	19,660 – –
1841 - -	4,870 – –	6,314 – –	6,780 – –	400 – –	1,988 – –	4,613 – –	19,660 – –
1842 - -	4,870 – –	6,314 – –	6,780 – –	633 – –	2,457 – –	4,613 – –	19,660 – –
1843 - -	4,870 – –	6,274 – –	6,780 – –	640 – –	3,739 – –	4,708 – –	34,230 – –
1844 - -	4,870 – –	6,460 – –	6,780 – –	640 – –	3,873 – –	4,400 – –	28,960 – –
1845 - -	4,870 – –	6,460 – –	6,780 – –	641 – –	6,809 – –	4,400 – –	28,960 – –
1846 - -	4,870 – –	6,460 – –	6,780 – –	640 – –	6,800 – –	4,880 – –	33.436 – –
1847 - -	4,870 – –	6,460 – –	6,540 – –	640 – –	6,800 – –	4,880 – –	36,116 – –
1848 - -	4,870 – –	6,460 – –	6,540 – –	640 – –	6,800 – –	4,880 – –	38,112 – –
Total for Establishment & Acquisition - £.	119,929 – –	From 1837, 75,867 – –	156,048 – –	13,011 – –	44,386 – –	122,635 – –	558,458 * – –

YEARS.	For Building and Repairs.	For Building and Repairs.	For Building and Repairs.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1823 - -	- - -	- - -	4,013 – –
1824 - -	- - -	- -	3,888 – –
1825 - -	- - -	- - -	—
1826 - -	- - -	3,006 – –	4,965 – –
1827 - -	—	—	—
1828 - -	80 – –	- - -	1,778 – –
1829 - -	95 – –	- - -	4,112 – –
1830 - -	- - -	- - -	—
1831 - -	- - -	- - -	—
1832 - -	- - -	- - -	—
1833 - -	- - -	- - -	5,169 – –
1834 - -	- - -	- - -	24,375 – –
1835 - -	2,697 – –	1,746 – –	25,246 – –
1836 - -	406 – –	973 – –	19,019 – –
1837 - -	353 – –	624 – –	3,452 – –
1838 - -	- - -	747 – –	2,128 – –
1839 - -	5,090 – –	265 – –	—
1840 - -	5,134 – –	130 – –	1,062 – –
1841 - -	16,000* – –	1,800* – –	10,000* – –
1842 - -			
1843 - -			
1844 - -			
1845 - -			
1846 - -			
1847 - -			
1848 - -			
Total for Building Purposes £.	29,855 – –	9,291 – –	109,237 – –
Aggregate Total - £.	149,784 – –	85,158 – –	265,285 – –

Du Sommerard Museum (Hotel Cluny).

	£. s. d
1843 -	15,600 – –
1844 -	360 – –
1845 -	360 – –
1846 -	360 – –
1847 -	1,000 – –
1848 -	1,000 – –
	£. 18,680 – –

SUMMARY.

	£. s. d.
Total for Establishment and Acquisitions - -	2,172,824 – –
„ Building purposes - - - -	489,534 – –
Grand Total - - - £.	2,962,358 – –
Yearly Average of the whole - - - -	113,936 17 –
Yearly Average, excluding the sum devoted to Building purposes - - - - -	95,108 12 –

*** These sums are exclusive of the expenditure on the Galleries of the Louvre and the Luxembourg, and on the Historical Museum at Versailles.

Appendix, No. 1.

French Educational Budget, 1847.

THE following is a SUMMARY of the whole of the Grants for Educational, Literary, Scientific, and Artistic Purposes, comprised in the French Budget of 1847, as voted by the Chambers.

(A.)—IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
I. CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION				22,620	–	–
II. UNIVERSITY OF FRANCE:						
1. Local and Academical Administration				577,084	–	–
2. Superior Instruction						
3. Secondary Instruction						
4. Primary Instruction						
III. LITERATURE AND SCIENCE:						
1. Institute of France	23,392	–	–			
2. Museum of Natural History	19,886	–	–			
3. Observatory, and other Astronomical Establishments	4,870	–	–			
4. Royal Library of Paris	15,544	–	–			
5. (a) Mazarine Library £.1,747 (b) Arsenal Library 1,747 (c) St. Genevieve Library 3,315 (d) Library of the Sorbonne or University 1,408	8,217	–	–			
6. Grants in aid of Libraries and Scientific Collections in the Provinces	2,628	–	–			
7. Botanical Gardens, &c.	816	–	–			
8. Subscriptions to important Literary Works	7,200	–	–			
9. Subscriptions to learned Societies	2,000	–	–			
10. Grants in aid of Scientific Missions and Voyages	4,480	–	–			
11. Encouragements to various Literary and Scientific Publications	9,992	–	–			
12. For publication of inedited Documents, illustrative of French History	6,000	–	–			
13. Grants in aid of various Scientific Societies and Professorships	12,830	–	–	117,855	–	–
TOTAL in the Department of Public Instruction - - - £.				717,559	–	–

(B.)—IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1. French Academy at Rome	4,880	–	–			
2. School of Fine Arts at Paris	4,360	–	–			
3. Schools of Design	2,180	–	–			
4. Conservatory and School of Music	6,460	–	–			
5. Museum of the Middle Ages at the Hote Cluny	1,000	–	–			
6. Works of Art	20,000	–	–			
7. Preservation of Public and Historical Monuments	32,000	–	–			
8. Encouragements and Subscriptions to various Artistic and illustrated Publications	8,440	–	–			
9. Indemnities to Artists for Apartments, &c.	5,508	–	–			
TOTAL in the Department of the Interior - - - £.				84,828	–	–

(C.)—IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1. New Library of St. Genevieve [one-sixth of the grant of 71,000*l.*]	11,833	–	–			
2. Repairs and ordinary Preservation of:—						
Royal Library Arsenal Library Museum of Natural History Palace of the Institute Observatory Conservatory and Public Library of Music School of the Fine Arts Schools of Design Approximate Estimate	10,000	–	–			
TOTAL in the Department of Public Works - - £.				21,833	–	–
TOTAL - - - £.				824,220	–	–

This sum is exclusive of the expenditure for the maintenance of the Galleries of the Louvre and the Luxembourg, and of the Historical Museum of Versailles, all of which, with some other similar expenses, appear to have been charged upon the Civil List.

Appendix, No. 1.

British Educational Budget, 1847.

THE following is a SUMMARY of the whole of the Grants for Educational, Literary, Scientific, and Artistic Purposes, comprised in the British Budget of 1847, as voted by the House o Commons.

		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
I.—EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL - - - -					3,425	–	–
II.—PUBLIC EDUCATION:							
1. Public Education, Great Britain - - -		100,000	–	–			
2. Ditto - - Ireland - - - - - -		100,000	–	–			
3. Professors at Oxford and Cambridge - -		2,006	–	–			
4. University of London - - - - - -		4,536	–	–			
5. Universities, &c. in Scotland - - - -		7,480	–	–			
6. Belfast Academical Institution - - -		3,900	–	–			
7. Maynooth College - - - - - -		26,360	–	–			
					244,282	–	–
III.—LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART:							
1. British Museum:							
(*a*) Establishment - - - -	£. 48,518						
(*b*) Buildings - - - - -	47,959						
(*c*) Special Purchases - - -	3,152						
(*d*) Ordinary repairs and furniture	850						
(*e*) Expenses of the Commission of Inquiry - - - - -	345						
		100,824	–	–			
2. Sion College Library - - - - - -		363	–	–			
3. Libraries of the Scottish Universities - -		2,232	–	–			
4. Library of the Queen's Inns at Dublin - -		433	–	–			
5. Museum of Practical Geology, and Geological Survey - - - - - - - -		8,961	–	–			
6. Scientific works and experiments, including a portion of the expenses of Greenwich Observatory - - - - - - - -		3,466	–	–			
7. Grants in aid of four Scientific Publications -		863	–	–			
8. Botanic Gardens at Kew, ordinary expenses - - - - - - -	£. 4,800						
New Palm House - - - - -	5,500						
		10,300	–	–			
9. National Gallery:							
(*a*) Ordinary expenses and purchases - - - - - -	£. 5,537						
(*b*) Repairs and furniture - -	525						
		6,062	–	–			
10. Schools of Design - - - - - -		6,500	–	–			
11. Completion of Nelson Monument - - -		2,000	–	–			
12. Commission on the Fine Arts:							
(*a*) Premiums for oil paintings -	£. 3,000						
(*b*) Models for statues intended for the decoration of the New House of Lords - - -	2,700						
(*c*) Expenses of the Commission -	750						
		6,450	–	–			
[The Lords of the Treasury also authorized the appropriation of 1,300*l.* for the purchase of historical pictures for the New Houses of Parliament; but this sum was to be taken "from the proceeds of the Exhibition of Oil Paintings in Westminster Hall."]							
13. Royal Dublin Society - - - - - -		6,000	–	–			
14. Royal Irish Academy - - - - - -		300	–	–			
15. Royal Hibernian Academy - - - - -		300	–	–			
					155,054	–	–
TOTAL - - - £.					402,761	–	–

Neither

Appendix, No. 1.

Neither the French nor the British budgets, from which the preceding tables have been compiled, afford materials for an exact statement of the whole sum devoted from the public funds of either country, for the exclusive purpose of forming and maintaining public libraries, since in many instances such libraries are portions of establishments of a more general nature, and the expenditure is defrayed from the general funds.

But, taking those libraries alone which constitute independent establishments, it will be seen that since 1823 the French legislature has voted the sum of 426,571 *l.* for four public libraries in Paris, exclusive of another sum of 107,426 *l.* for buildings, and for the ordinary maintenance of the several fabrics. The accounts of the expenditure of the French Institute enable me to add, that 16,848 *l.* has been expended on its library, during the same period, from public funds. And on the library of the University of Paris there has also been expended 13,011 *l.*, making a total of 456,430 *l.* devoted to the public libraries of Paris, exclusive of those of the Museum of Natural History, of the School of the Fine Arts, of the Observatory, and the fine public library of the Conservatory of Music (which is stated to contain 17,000 volumes). If the proportion of the public grants to these institutions (amounting in the whole to 775,444 *l.*) expended on their libraries be taken, approximatively, at 65,000 *l.*, the aggregate total so expended by votes of the French legislature will be 521,430 *l*, or, on the average, 20,055 *l.* a year.*

The sum devoted by Parliament to public libraries in London, during these 26 years, is at the utmost 282,486 *l.*, or, on the average, 10,864 *l.* 17 *s.* a year.

The sum assigned to the Royal Library of Paris in 1781 was 4,000 *l.* In the same year the Library of the British Museum received about 770 *l.* In the last year of the Empire the Paris Library had 8,000 *l.*; that of London, at the same period, 3,831 *l.* In 1817, under the Restoration, the grant for the Royal Library of Paris was reduced to 7,200; the Museum Library of London, in that year, received 3,542 *l.* In 1835 the former received 10,960 *l.*; the latter, 5,724 *l.* During the last two or three years, indeed, their relative position has somewhat changed; the sum at present allotted to the National Library of Paris being 15,544 *l.*, and to the Museum Library about 23,000 *l.*

The total sum allotted to the Chapter, "Science, Literature, and the Fine Arts," in the last budget of Napoleon, was 61,400 *l.* In 1817, under the Restoration, this chapter was reduced to 56,120 *l.* In 1832 its amount was 75,640; in 1844, 157,233 *l.*; and in 1847, 202,683 *l.* The sum devoted to similar purposes from the public funds of Great Britain was, in 1832, 35,083 *l.*; in 1844, 114,986 *l.*; and in 1847, 155,054 *l.*

The total expenditure of the Department of Public Instruction in the last year of Napoleon was 118,200 *l.* In 1817 the expenditure of that department had been reduced to 89,520 *l.*; in 1821 it was raised to 112,000 *l.*; and under the late government its progress was as follows; and may be thus compared with the corresponding expenditure in Great Britain:—

YEARS.	FRANCE.	GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND.
	£.	£.
1830	143,068 †	55,609
1834	343,240	164,093
1836	537,499	151,540
1841	664,451	208,755
1843	694,862	224,770
1845	720,609	305,266
1847	717,559	402,761

It does not appear that the difference between the French Estimates of 1845 and 1847 resulted from any diminution of the educational grants in the latter year, but from a transfer of certain expenditure on account of public buildings from the Home Department to that of Public Works. This last-named class of charges does not always appear on the Estimates in detail, and hence it is that certain sums in the preceding table of the French grants, from 1823 to 1848 (pages 298 and 299), marked with an asterisk, are only approximative; but they have been founded on a careful analysis of the details of other years; and it is believed that if in any instance they err, the error will invariably prove to be one of deficiency and not of excess.

In every other case the sums stated exactly represent in English money the original Votes, and have uniformly been extracted from the official budgets, some of which are to be found in the Library of the British Museum; and others, not in that collection, are in the Library of the House of Commons.

Edward Edwards.

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* The Town Library is supported by municipal funds, and to that has been thence devoted about 13,000 *l.* during the same period.

† Of this sum 12,000 *l.* was allotted to "Primary Instruction" (to which, in 1823, only 1,353 *l.* had been devoted). In 1845 the sum set apart for the same purpose was 95,828 *l.*, to which was added, from departmental funds, the sum of 176,162 *l.*; and from the special resources of certain primary schools in different parts of the country, 22,145 *l.*; making a total for primary instruction, in 1845, of 294,135 *l.*

V.—A LIST of some Provincial Libraries in *Scotland*, chiefly Supported by Voluntary Contribution.

1. Libraries not Parochial.

NAME OF TOWN.	Designation of Library.	Number of Volumes.	When Founded.	How Supported. Incidental Remarks.
Ayr	Town Library	About 4,500	Founded 1762; incorporated 1808.	Chiefly by annual subscriptions.
Dundee	Dundee Public Library	About 6,500	Founded 1796	By the entrance money and subscriptions of members.
Glasgow	Glasgow Public Library	16,000	Founded 1804	By annual subscriptions.
	Library of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons.	7,000	Founded 1795	By subscriptions of members, and by the diploma fees of licentiates.
	Library of the Glasgow Mechanics' Institution.	5,000	Founded 1823	By annual subscriptions.
	Library of the Faculty of Procurators.	4,500	Founded 1817	By annual subscriptions, and by the following fees:—An apprentice fee of 5 *l.*, payable "on booking the indenture." An admission fee of 10 *l.* from every member of faculty who shall have served an apprenticeship according to the charter: and a similar fee of 20 *l.* for every member admitted, without apprenticeship, by statute.
	Glasgow Athenæum Library	3,676	Founded 1848	By donations, and by a yearly grant from the general funds of the Athenæum.
	Library of the Philosophical Society of Glasgow.	3,600	Founded 1802	By subscriptions of members.
	Library of the Mechanics' Class of the Andersonian University.	2,500	Founded 1808	By voluntary contributions. "One of the principal sources of regret to the directors is, that the funds of the Andersonian University will not admit of increasing, by purchase, the number of books in the library." "The antiquity and acknowledged usefulness of the institution, the large number of students attending it, and the great benefit which would be derived by these students, and by the public generally, give, it is considered, substantial claims to the Andersonian University to participate in any [grants, or] distribution of books which the Government or House of Commons may please to make among the most useful public libraries."—*Official Return to a series of Questions, &c.*
	Calton, Mile-end, & Bridgeton Mechanics' Library.	2,000	Founded 1824	By annual subscriptions. "Want of funds sadly cripples the efficiency of the library, and of the institution with which it is connected."—*Ibid.*
	Cowcadders' Mechanics' Institute Library.	1,450	Founded 1837	By annual subscriptions.
	Glasgow Foreign Library	813	Founded 1834	- - - ditto.
	Library of the Sabbath-School Union.	- - -	- - - - -	"The libraries are found to secure the attendance of many of the children, and it is hoped some countenance may be given by Government to such a useful institution, now gratuitously supported."—*Ibid.*
	Partick Public Library	450	Founded 1836.	—
Govan (by Glasgow.)	Thom's Library	1,100	Founded 1818	This library was founded by Mrs. Thom, the widow of a former minister of the parish. Mrs. Thom, by her will, provided an annual payment of 5 *l.*, as a remuneration to the librarian. All persons are admitted to its use, the books being lent out, on a payment of 6 *d.* per quarter. The library is now in debt between 5 *l.* and 10 *l.*
Greenock	Library of the Greenock Mechanics' Institution.	3,400	Founded 1832	Chiefly by annual subscriptions.
	Cartsdyke Mechanics', or Eastern District Library.	2,100	- - - -	ditto - - ditto.

(continued)

A List of some of the Provincial Libraries in *Scotland*, chiefly Supported by Voluntary Contributions—*continued.*

NAME OF TOWN.	Designation of Library.	Number of Volumes.	When Founded.	How Supported. —— Incidental Remarks.
Kilmarnock -	Library of Mechanics' Institution.	800	Founded 1836 -	By annual subscriptions.
	Town Library - - -	- - -	- - - -	- - "The Town Library is very valuable, both for the number of the books and their character. It is particularly rich in different branches of history."—*Official Return, &c.*
Perth - -	Perth Library - - -	8,000	Founded 1786 -	- - By voluntary subscriptions. This library is stated to be greatly cramped in its efficiency, from want of funds. It is inalienable, being conveyed in trust to certain official persons and others connected with the town and county. A subscription of 15*s.* admits to its use.
Port Glasgow	Port Glasgow Public Library	1,000	Founded 1798 -	By annual subscriptions.

2. Parochial Libraries.

NAME of PARISH.	NAME of COUNTY.	Number of Volumes.	When Founded.	REMARKS.
Benholme - -	Kincardineshire	About 500 volumes - -	- - -	- "Highly valued by the people, and at present upwards of 300 individuals read from it."—See *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, xi. 63.
Collace - -	Perthshire -	- - - - - -	About 1830	- - "There is a library under the patronage of Mr Nairne, consisting chiefly of historical, geographical, and religious books." . . . . . It is stated to be "most acceptable to the people, and is rapidly diffusing a taste for reading amongst them."—*Ib.*, x. 118.
Cupar - -	Fifeshire - -	4,000 volumes - - -	1,797	- - Partly bequeathed by the late Dr. Gray, of Paddington-green, London.
Dumblane - -	Perthshire -	- - - - - -	- - -	- - Bishop Leighton, by his will, bequeathed his library to the clergy of the diocese of Dumblane. His executors, at their own expense, erected a house to contain the books, and mortified 300 *l.* towards its maintenance. Various additions have been made to the books, both by purchase and bequest. It is stated to contain "excellent editions of the Classics, several works of the Fathers, a host of obscure theological writings of the 15th [?], 16th, and 17th centuries, a thin sprinkling of publications of the last century," but few or none of more recent date.
Dundee - -	Forfarshire -	- - - - - -	- - -	- - There is stated to be a collection of books in the vestry of the old church of Dundee, evidently belonging to Roman-catholic times, but of its commencement or design there is no history.
Fordoun - -	Kincardineshire	610 volumes - - -	1827	
Kinnell - -	Forfarshire -	- - - - - -	1827	- - Founded by James Douglas, of Cavers. Its management is vested in the kirk session, and the books are stated to be "eagerly sought after by the parishioners."
Laurencekirk -	Kincardineshire	1. Parochial library, 300 vols.		
		2. Clerical library for Episcopal clergy of Brechin, 1,000 volumes.	- - -	- - Founded by Bishop Abernethy Drummond. The greater part of the books are theological, and some are said to be of considerable value. "Persons of literary education or pursuits in the neighbourhood have," it is stated, "always experienced much liberality in obtaining access to the library."

A List of some of the Provincial Libraries in *Scotland*, chiefly Supported by Voluntary Contributions—*continued.*

NAME of PARISH.	NAME of COUNTY.	Number of Volumes.	When Founded.	REMARKS.
Laurencekirk -	Kincardineshire	3. "Public Library" -	- - -	- - Lord Gardenstone founded what he called the "public library of Laurencekirk," and obtained from various quarters donations of books for it. . . . . But his design was not prosecuted after his death."—*New Statistical Account, &c.*, xi. 150.
Langholme -	Dumfriesshire -	- - - - - -	1800	- - Mr. Telford, the celebrated engineer, bequeathed 1,000 *l.* sterling to the Langholme Library. It is stated that "Most of the standard works in English literature, and the popular periodicals of the present day, are to be found in this Library."
Letham - -	Forfarshire -	500 volumes - - -	- - -	- - Treating of morality and religion; civil history, and especially the history of Scotland.
Lochwinnoch -	Renfrewshire -	- - - - - -	1823	- - "Special care is taken to exclude from this parochial library all books hostile either to religion or Government. Another parish library, exclusively religious, was instituted in 1833; but many persons disliking this exclusive character, another was founded in the following year, called 'The Working Man's Library,' into which all kinds of books upon every subject are admitted, though containing the most conflicting opinions, except such as are hostile to evangelical religion."—*New Statistical Account*, vii. 108.
Muthill - -	Perthshire -	- - - - -	- - -	- - The most valuable library in this part of Perthshire is said to be that of Inverpeffary, founded for the use of ministers and students, by Lord Madderty. It is stated to contain many excellent books, especially on divinity.
Rothsay - -	Buteshire -	- - - - -	- - -	- - There is in the custody of the minister of the parish a small library, consisting of books left to the parish by the last Bishop of the Isles, who had his residence in Rothsay. A valuable addition was made to it by the Rev. Dugald Stewart, grandfather of the late Professor.
Salton - -	Haddingtonshire	900 volumes - - -	- - -	- - Bishop Burnet, who had been minister of this parish, by his last will bequeathed 2,000 *l.* to trustees for the education of children "of the poorer sort," . . . . and . . . "for the increase of a library which had begun to be formed for the minister's house and use," . . . "as an expression of my kind gratitude to that parish which had the first fruits of my labours, and among whom I had all possible kindness and encouragement." At the time of Bishop Burnet's induction, the library appears to have contained 145 volumes; from him it received considerable additions; and from 1760, when his bequest first became available, it has been augmented by each successive incumbent.
St. Cyrus - -	Kincardineshire	750 volumes - - -	- - -	- - Founded by a collection at the church doors, and by small subscriptions amongst the parishioners. The use of the books is free to all the inhabitants. The librarian is stated to have given a portion of his time gratuitously every Sunday since the establishment of the library, in order to lend out books.
Westerkirk -	Dumfriesshire -	- - - - - -	- - -	- - So much was the late Mr. Telford impressed with the advantages of parish libraries, that he bequeathed to this, as to that of Langholme, in the same county, 1,000 *l.* sterling, the interest of which is annually laid out in the purchase of books. The management of this bequest is vested in the minister and kirk session.

Appendix, No. 2.

[PAPERS delivered in by Mr. *Smiles*; (Question 1959.)]

TABULAR VIEW of the INSTITUTES comprised in what is called THE YORKSHIRE UNION OF MECHANICS'

NAME of INSTITUTE.	Hall or other Building.	Number of Members and Subscribers last Year.	Number of Members and Subscribers this Year.	Male.	Female.	Population; Census of 1841.	Rate of Subscription.	Volumes in Library.
Adwalton	hired	53	42	42	- -	2,031	8 *s.*; 6 *s.*; 3 *s.*	115
Barnsley	- - -	136	- -	- -	- -	12,310	10 *s.* and 8 *s.*	300
Barnard Castle	- - -	70	- -	- -	- -	- -	No report.	—
Beverley	hall	334	342	319	23	8,730	10 *s.* 6 *d.*; 6 *s.*; 4 *s.*	1,000
Birkenshaw	hired	61	- -	- -	- -	1,620	1 *d.* per week	40
Bingley	hired	97	123	123	- -	11,000	1 ½ *d.* per week	582
Birstall	hired	42	56	56	- -	4,000	8 *s.* and 6 *s.*	190
Bradford	hall	746	736	705	21	34,560	- - 10 *s.*; 6 *s.*; 21 *s.*, with two presentations.	4,342
Bramley	- - -	77	72	69	3	8,875	7 *s.* and 5 *s.*	609
Bridlington	hired	111	91	83	8	6,070	10*s.* 6*d.*; 6*s.*; 5*s.*; 4*s.*	367
Ditto Quay	- - -	145	100	100	- -		10*s.* 6*d.*; 6*s.*; 5*s.*; 4*s.*	150
Brighouse	hired	86	104	103	1	5,416	6 *s.*	262
Burley	lent	84	74	64	14	1,700	1 *d.* per week	230
Chapeltown	- - hired and lent.	new	200	155	45	3,000	12 *s.*; 10 *s.*; 6 *s.*; 4 *s.*	682
Cleckheaton	hired	96	120	120	- -	4,299	21 *s.*; 10 *s.*; 8 *s.*; 6 *s.*	632
Darlington	hired	451	542	536	6	11,033	Life 5 *l.*; 10 *s.* and 5 *s.*	1,305
Dewsbury	Sunday-school	207	194	180	14	10,600	4 *s.* 4 *d.*	472
Dogley Lane	- - Sunday-school; lent.	103	70	70	- -	1,500	20 *s.*; 10 *s.*; 8 *s.* 8 *d.*	207
Driffield	- - -	250	246	216	30	3,223	6 *s.* and 4 *s.*	900
Elland	- - -	80	- -	- -	- -	6,465	6 *s.* and 4 *s.*	650
Filey	hired	87	- -	- -	- -	- -	10 *s.*; 6 *s.*; and 4 *s.*	300
Garforth	- - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	No report.	—
Goole	- - -	62	- -	- -	- -	- -	10 *s.*	366
Grassington	- - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	No report.	—
Guiseley	schoolroom	40	58	52	6	1,800	8 *s.* 8 *d.*; 5 *s.*; 4 *s.* 4 *d.*	202
Harrogate	- - hired and lent.	new	270	- -	- -	4,100	10 *s.* 6 *d.*; 6 *s.*; 4 *s.*	700
Halifax	hired	336	302	302	- -	20,000	8 *s.* and 5 *s.*	2,400
Headingley	school; lent	new	78	68	10	1,500	10 *s.*; 9 *s.*; 5 *s.*	- - Lent 600.
Heckmondwike	- - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	No report.	—
Hedon	hall	90	80	75	5	998	5 *s.*, and 1 *s.* per quarter	409
High Green	- - -	21	- -	- -	- -	1,000	20 *s.*, and 6 *d.* per month	85
Holbeck	Zion school	384	253	200	53	17,000	½ *d.* per week	1,257
Holmfirth	hired	98	108	106	2	10,000	- - 21 *s.* and 10 *s.* 6 *d.*; 3 *s.* 3 *d.* and 2 *s.* 2 *d.* per quarter; 6 *d.* and 4 *d.* per fortnight.	627
Honley	- - dwelling-house and schoolroom.	105	120	120	- -	5,381	- - 21 *s.* and 10 *s.*; 3 *d.* and 2 *d.* weekly.	476
Horsforth	- - Baptist chapel.	34	52	52	- -	5,000	3 *d.* per month	150
Howden	hired	new	187	184	3	4,531	- - Life 5 *l.*; 10 *s.*; 6 *s.*; 4 *s.*	300
Hoyland	hall	26	42	42	- -	2,000	6 *d.* monthly	260
Huddersfield	14 rooms	762	759	759	- -	25,063	- 21 *s.* with one presentation; 3 *d.* per week.	1,400
Ditto (Female)	school	278	- -	- -	278	,,	10 *s.*, and 2 *d.* per week	400
Hull Athenæum	hired	400	400	400	- -	66,258	- - 21 *s.*, and 6 *s.* per quarter.	300
Hunslet	hired	70	72	72	- -	15,852	8 *s.*; 6 *s.*; 4 *s.*	1,220
Keighley	hall	271	440	301	139	13,378	- - 10 *s.* 6 *d.*; 8 *s.* 8 *d.*; 4 *s.* 4 *d.*	1,782

- - - - - - - Appendix, No. 2.

[PAPERS delivered in by Mr. *Smiles*; (Question 1959).]

INSTITUTES; Number of Members and Subscribers; Lectures; Classes; Reading Rooms; Annual Income; &c.

Issues during the Year.	Number of Lectures and Papers during the Year.	CLASSES.	Elementary.	Drawing.	Female.	Total in Classes.	Reading Room and other Departments.	Annual Income.	Date to which this Report extends.
								£.	
500	20	13 various - - -	–	–	–	–	- - Day school; reading room.	45	May 1849.
- -	- -	- - - - - -	–	–	–	–	- - - - -	- -	June 1848.
4,016	30	- - Elementary; discussion; phonetic.	15	–	–	47	- - Reading room and museum.	77	May 1849.
254	1	3 elementary - - -	–	–	–	26	None - - - -	5	May 1848.
2,862	5	Elementary and drawing	40	20	–	60	Reading room - -	42	Dec. 1848.
1,050	11	Elementary; discussion -	30	–	–	–	Reading room - -	25	1 May 1849.
20,756	24	- - Elementary and School of Design.	180	46	–	226	- - Reading room and museum.	350	30 April 1849.
2,894	10	Geography and elementary	–	–	–	–	Reading room - -	30	May 1849.
unknown	20	None - - - -	–	–	–	–	Reading and news room	24	April 1849.
unknown	12	- - - - -	–	–	–	–	- - - - -	40	Dec. 1848.
1,731	7	6 various - - -	–	–	–	–	- - - - -	30	April 1849.
1,130	3	2 elementary; 1 Bible -	25	–	–	33	Reading room - -	20	4 May 1849.
2,450	21	None - - - -	–	–	–	–	- - Reading and news room, chess, &c.	60	1 May 1849.
1,634	2	- - 3 elementary, and mensuration.	85	–	–	–	Reading and news room	55	April 1849.
7,675	22	- - 3 elementary; drawing; composition; geography.	57	15	–	–	Reading room - -	148	Dec. 1848.
1,530	11	- - 3 elementary; mathematics, and drawing.	14	10	12	–	- - - - -	80	April 1849.
910	2	7 various - - -	50	–	–	–	- - - - -	28	April 1849.
5,325	22	Discussion - - -	–	–	–	–	Reading room - -	82	Dec. 1848
1,800	4	3 various - - -	–	–	–	80	- - - - -	26	May 1848.
- -	- -	None - - - -	–	–	–	–	None - - -	- -	June 1848.
3,654	- -	None - - - -	–	–	–	–	- - - - -	26	June 1848.
922	4	- - 5 elementary, and discussion.	25	–	4	–	Reading and news room	24	4 May 1849.
- -	- -	- - 2 elementary; grammar; drawing.	12	8	–	–	Reading and news room	- -	May 1849.
8,707	7	5 various - - -	61	5	–	–	Reading room - -	103	March 1849.
- -	- -	- - 3 elementary; history; geography.	32	–	6	–	Reading room - -	- -	May 1849.
1,127	8	- - - - -	–	–	–	–	Reading room - -	56	April 1849.
236	19	- - 3 elementary; drawing, and discussion.	–	–	–	19	- - Reading room and Library.	54	Jan. 1848.
10,000	6	- - 6 elementary; discussion; German; logic.	60	–	20	–	None - - - -	25	May 1849.
1,720	10	- - 3 elementary; French; drawing; singing and music.	66	16	–	–	Reading room - -	79	May 1849.
4,200	2	- - 4 elementary; drawing; history.	–	6	–	–	Reading room - -	75	April 1849.
400	1	- - 2 elementary; 1 geography.	–	–	–	–	Reading room - -	8	May 1849.
- - In 3 months 700.	4	None - - - -	–	–	–	–	Reading room - -	72	May 1849.
- -	None -	None - - - -	–	–	–	–	- - - - -	12	May 1849.
12,000	27	- - 52 classes, and 45 teachers.	330	75	–	–	Reading room - -	496	May 1849.
- -	7	10 various - - -	–	–	–	–	- - - - -	129	May 1848.
3,200	1	- - Discussion; French; German; Danish; dancing; music.	–	5	–	130	- - Reading room; chess; cricket club.	350	April 1849.
unknown	12	2 elementary - - -	16	–	–	16	Reading room - -	- -	April 1849.
8,882	6	- - 3 elementary; history, and geography; sewing; drawing.	28	24	139	–	News room - - -	- -	April 1849.

(*continued*)

NAME of INSTITUTE.	Hall or other Building.	Number of Members and Subscribers last year.	Number of Members and Subscribers this Year.	Male.	Female.	Population; Census of 1841.	Rate of Subscription.	Volumes in Library.
Kirkheaton - -	free school -	46	- -	- -	- -	11,930	8 s. - - -	812
Kirkstall - - -	hired school	60	70	65	5	1,200	10 s. 6 d.; 5 s. - -	560
Kirkby Malzeaad -	- - -	47	50	39	11	799	6 s. and 4 s. - -	186
Knaresborough - -	- - two hired rooms.	89	109	103	6	6,113	20 s.; 12 s.; 8 s.; 4 s.	700
Leeds - - -	hall - -	1,726	1,868	1,639	229	88,741	15 s.; 12 s.; 10 s.; 8 s.; 5 s; and 6 d. per fortnight.	7,026
Ditto (Odd Fellows) -	- - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	no return.	—
Lockwood - - -	school -	30	46	46	- -	450	1½ d. per week -	279
Malton - - -	hall - -	131	140	140	- -	5,317	10 s.; 6 s.; 4 s. -	2,000
Marsden - - -	hired - -	55	97	78	19	2,403	- - 2½ d.; 1½ d.; and 1 d. weekly.	867
Market Weighton -	hired - -	100	73	70	3	2,269	10 s; 6 s.; 5; 4 s. -	100
Middlesborough -	hall - -	301	507	501	6	5,450	8 s.; 6 s.; 4 s. -	756
Morley - - -	hired - -	85	50	50	- -	4,087	10 s. and 4 s. - -	420
Mossley - - -	- - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	no return.	—
Nafferton - - -	- - -	70	- -	- -	- -	- -	4 s. - - -	100
Netherton - - -	hired - -	80	75	75	- -	1,500	- 21 s.; 10 s.; 8 s. 8 d.; 2 d. weekly.	250
Northallerton - -	lent - -	new -	137	130	7	3,000	10 s.; 6 s.; 5 s.; 4 s.	183
Otley - - -	Sunday-school	70	110	108	2	3,600	5 s. - - -	700
Pateley Bridge - -	hired - -	80	76	64	12	800	6 s. - - -	498
Pocklington - -	hall - -	145	148	138	10	2,323	6 s.; 5 s.; 4 s. - -	339
Pontefract - - -	hired - -	85	50	50	- -	6,000	1 s. 6 d. per quarter -	none
Pudsey - - -	school -	136	70	70	- -	10,000	2 d. per week - -	212
Richmond - -	hired - -	149	172	169	3	4,000	10 s.; 6 s.; 4 s. -	554
Ripley - - -	hired - -	48	50	44	6	283	6 s.; 4 s.; 3 s. -	274
Ripon - - -	hall - -	279	246	235	11	6,079	- - 10 s.; 8 s.; 4 s.: 21 s.; 10 s. 6 d.; 6 s.	690
Saddleworth - -	hired - -	180	143	127	16	2,000	- - 8 s.; 5 s.; payable quarterly.	1,004
Scarborough - -	hired - -	278	241	233	10	10,800	- - 10 s.; 6 s.; 4 s.; reading-room 4 s. extra.	1,462
Selby - - -	hired - -	190	167	164	3	5,000	10 s.; 8 s.; 4 s. -	400
Sheffield - - -	hired -	390	- -	- -	- -	68,186	- - 21 s; 10 s. 6 d.; 8 s.; 6 s., and 4 s.	2,024
Skipton - - -	- - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	no report.	—
Sowerby Bridge -	- - -	108	- -	- -	- -	8,163	8 s. and 5 s. - -	1,070
Stanningley - -	hired -	50	51	51	- -	4,510	1 s. 6 d. per quarter -	345
Stockton - - -	hired -	350	400	350	50	10,000	10 s.; 6 s.; 4 s. -	1,100
Thirsk - - -	hired -	108	90	90	- -	2,900	21 s,; 16 s; 8 s.; 4 s.	350
Thorne - - -	court-house	77	68	58	10	3,183	2 s. 6 d. - - -	none
Wakefield - - -	- - hall and hired buildings.	802	548	506	42	14,754	20 s.; 10 s.; 5 s.; 3 s.	8,430
Wentworth - -	hall - -	92	88	88	- -	1,497	6 d. and 4 d. per week	855
Wetherby - - -	hired -	105	111	85	16	1,433	20 s.; 10 s; 6 s. -	730
Whitby - - -	hired -	212	212	208	4	12,000	10 s.; 5 s. - -	860
Wilsden - - -	hall - -	196	215	143	72	2,684	1½ d. and 1 d. per week	1,523
Woodhouse - -	hired -	160	120	100	20	3,000	1½ d. and 1 d. per week	420
Woodlesford - -	- - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	no report.	—
Wortley - - -	- - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	no report.	—
York - - -	hall - -	621	636	626	10	30,000	- - 12 s.; 10 s.; 6 s.; 3 s. and 1 s. 6 d. per quarter.	3,566
Not in the Union:								
Haworth - - -	- - -	new -	138	136	2	5,000	1 s. per quarter -	240

16 May 1849.

Issues during the Year.	Number of Lectures and Papers during the Year.	CLASSES.	Elementary.	Drawing.	Female.	Total in Classes.	Reading Room and other Departments.	Annual Income. £.	Date to which this Report extends.
1,176	5	- - - - -	–	–	–	–	- - - -	18	April 1848.
1,372	9	- - 2 elementry; drawing; mechanics; chemistry; French, &c.	30	6	4	–	Reading room - -	28	Jan. 1849.
473	None -	Mutual improvement class	–	–	–	–	Reading room - -	13	Feb. 1849.
5,598	2	Phrenotypics - - -	31	–	–	–	Reading room - -	71	Sept. 1848
57,174	39	- - Day school and school of design; 13 various.	122	212	–	–	- - Reading and news room; monthly concerts.	1,150	Dec. 1848.
—									
557	6	4 various - - -	34	–	–	–	- - - -	12	April 1849.
1,800	13	3 various - - -	40	25	–	–	Reading room - -	43	May 1849.
750	4	3 elementary; music -	–	–	–	–	- - Reading room and museum.	23	May 1849.
930	9	None - - - -	–	–	–	–	Reading and news room	32	April 1849.
6,528	9	- - 2 elementary; elocution; singing; discussion.	73	14	6	–	Reading room and chess	222	May 1849.
635	- -	None - - - -	–	–	–	–	Reading and news room	19	April 1849.
—									
- -	- -	None - - - -	–	–	–	–	None - - - -	14	June 1848.
700	6	Various - - - -	65	–	–	–	Reading room - -	49	May 1849.
4 months 748	13	None - - - -	–	–	–	–	Reading room - -	- -	May 1849.
3,000	2	None - - - -	–	–	–	–	Reading and news room	15	Jan. 1849.
1,100	8	3 elementary - - -	–	–	–	–	Reading room - -	40	Jan. 1849.
unknown	12	Drawing - - -	–	14	–	–	Reading room - -	40	May 1849.
- -	9	- - Discussion; 3 elementary; drawing; vocal and instrumental music.	6	8	–	–	- - - -	65	1 April 1849.
1,227	10	4 elementary and drawing	40	16	–	–	- - - -	30	May 1849.
2,974	10	Elementary and drawing -	6	13	–	–	Reading room - -	53	May 1849.
513	9	Elementary - - -	17	–	–	–	Reading room - -	24	April 1849.
1,701	20	4 elementary; drawing; music; phonography; discussion.	48	8	–	–	Reading and news room	155	May 1849.
4,600	3	2 elementary and discussion	76	–	–	–	Reading room - -	80	May 1849.
4,326	6	4 elementary; 2 drawing	30	42	–	–	Reading room - -	85	May 1849.
1,040	11	- - 4 elementary; drawing; mathematics; geography; singing.	60	8	–	–	Reading and news room	50	April 1849.
10,100	13	- - - - -	–	–	–	–	- - - -	186	Nov. 1847.
—									
1,519		3 various - - -	–	–	–	30	- - - -	- -	May 1848.
950		3 elementary - - -	24	–	–	–	Reading room - -	12	May 1849.
3,602	12	11 various - - -	–	–	–	–	Reading and news room	86	Jan. 1849.
1,414	12	Various - - - -	30	10	–	–	Reading room - -	37	April 1849.
- -	11	None - - - -	–	–	–	–	- - - -	10	Dec. 1848.
14,500	26	4 Various - - -	43	–	16	–	Reading room - -	300	May 1849.
1,415	3	2 elementary - - -	20	–	–	–	- - - -	26	Dec. 1848.
3,886	9	4 elementary; music; drawing.	–	6	–	–	News and reading room	96	April 1849.
3,337	4	None - - - -	–	–	–	–	Reading room - -	55	May 1849.
4,281	5	4 elementary; geography; discussion.	100	–	65	–	- - - -	68	April 1849.
3,600	12	11 various - - -	100	–	20	–	Reading room - -	- -	April 1849.
—									
—									
19,679	38	3 elementary; drawing -	92	47	–	–	Reading and news room	325	May 1849.
- - In 6 months 800.	76	1 grammar - - -	16	–	–	–	Reading room - -	- commenced with 40	May 1849.

Appendix, No. 3.

[PAPERS delivered in by Mr. *J. B. Langley*; (Question 2475.)]

TABLE of the MECHANICS' INSTITUTIONS of *England* and *Wales*, their Libraries, and Yearly Issues of Books.

NAME OF TOWN.	Population.	NAME OF INSTITUTION.	CHARACTER.	Number of Members.	Class of Persons Using it.	Subscription Quarterly.	Volumes in Library.	Yearly Total Issue.	REMARKS.
Ackworth	1,900	Mechanics' Library	Library and lectures	80	- - Middle classes and mechanics.	1/	514	800	
Alston	1,800	- - Literary and Mechanics' Institution.	Mutual improvement	40	- - Professional and middle classes.	2/	530	640	1 female member.
Almondbury	- -	Mutual Improvement	Educational	40	Tradesmen and operatives	2/2	—	—	
Ashford	3,500	Mechanics' Institution	- - Social, and mutual improvement.	125	Tradesmen and others	3/3 and 2/	700	2,500	- - Senior and junior members.
Ashton-under-Lyne	27,000	- - - ditto	Educational	150	Shopkeepers and assistants	2/6	1,420	4,500	
Adwalton	- -	- - - ditto	Mutual improvement	83	Operatives	2/, 1/6, and /9	- -	- -	Classes, &c.
Addingham	- -	- - - ditto	- - ditto	56	- ditto	1/1	—	—	
Bacup	6,000	- - - ditto	- - ditto	100	Factory operatives	2/	733	4,500	
Barnstaple	1,000	Literary and Scientific Institution.	Social, &c.	360	All classes	5/ and 2/6	2,400	6,500	- - 100 mechanics free.
Basingstoke	4,300	Mechanics' Institution	Mutual improvement	193	Middle classes	2/	1,000	4,500	
Bath	60,000	Athenæum	Inactive	226	Gentlemen and tradesmen	3/ and 2/	2,800	37,000	
Batley	8,000	- - Literary and Mental Improvement Society.	- - Social, and mutual improvement.	80	Tradesmen and mechanics	1/	600	1,000	
Battle	3,000	Mechanics' Institution	Mutual improvement	50	Tradespeople	1/6	400	750	
Bedford	10,000	- - Literary and Scientific Institution.	- - ditto	90	Tradesmen	2/	200	1,500	
Belper	10,300	Subscription Library	Library	90	Tradesmen and ladies	1/3	700	2,500	Shares.
Beverley	- -	E. Riding Mechanics' Institution.	Educational	300	Tradesmen and operatives	2/6, 1/6, and 1/	—	—	
Bexley Heath	2,000	Institution	Mutual improvement	50	- - - - -	1/3	140	1,250	
Bilston	- -	Mechanics' Institution	Lectures	- -	Tradesmen.	—	—	—	
Bingley	3,600	- - - ditto	Mutual improvement	76	Weavers	1/6	446	1,800	
Birstal	3,500	Mental Improvement Society	- - ditto	40	Operatives	2/ and 1/6	119	800	
Birkenhead	17,000	Mechanics' Institution	Educational and social	60	Mechanics	4/	600	4,320	
Birmingham	200,000	Polytechnic Institution	Scientific	546	Middle classes	5/6 and 3/6	3,200	12,600	School.
Ditto	- -	Philosophical Institution	- ditto	- -	Professional men	7/6	—	—	
Blackheath	8,000	- - Society for the Diffusion of Knowledge.	Social	450	All classes	2/6 and 1/3	2,400	20,000	
Blackburn	40,000	Mechanics' Institution	Educational	200	Operatives	2/	Small	Small.	
Bodmin	5,000	Literary Institution	Social	65	Tradesmen	2/6, 4/, and 5/	640	3,600	
Bolton	60,000	Mechanics' Institution	ditto	317	Tradesmen and operatives	2/6	3,200	13,680	
Bradford (York)	35,000	- - - ditto	Educational	180	Operatives	2/6 and 1/6	- -	- -	Lectures, &c.
Brighouse	3,800	- - - ditto	- ditto	100	Mechanics and apprentices	2/	135	3,000	
Brighton	50,000	Athenæum	Social and educational	520	Tradesmen	2/7½	2,000	10,800	
Ditto	- -	Literary and Scientific Institution.	Discussion.	—	—	—	—	—	
Boston	13,000	Mechanics' Institution	Social and educational	178	Tradesmen and mechanics	2/ and 1/	410	1,800	
Bramley	9,000	- - - ditto	Mutual improvement	105	Operatives	1/9 and 1/3	530	5,200	
Bromley	4,500	Literary Institution	Social and educational	200	Tradesmen and ladies	2/6	1,200	5,040	

Burley - -	-	Mechanics' Institution	Mutual improvement	38	Operatives - - -	1/1	—	—	
Burnley - -	25,000	- - - ditto - - -	- - - -	349	Tradesmen - - -	2/6	2,300	6,122	
Brentford -	- -	- - - ditto - - -	Lectures - -	- -	- ditto - - - -	—	—	—	
Bury - -	25,000	- - - ditto - - -	- -	132	Operatives - - -	2/6 and 1/6	1,000	5,200	
Camberwell	40,000	- - Institution for Industrious Classes.	Education -	384	Working classes - -	1/3	336	9,600	
Camberwell -	40,000	Literary and Scientific - -	Social - -	332	All classes -	7/6	2,100	7,200	
Camborne -	5,000	Institution - - - -	Education -	80	Tradesmen - - -	2/6	1,000	3,700	
Canterbury -	15,000	- - Mechanics' and Literary Institution.	Social - - -	200	Shopmen - -	2/6	372	2,500	
Chatham	20,000	Mechanics' Institution - -	Education -	400	Tradesmen - - -	2/	1,700	4,800	
Chester - -	23,000	- - - ditto - - -	Social and educational	344	- ditto - - - -	2/6	3,000	11,520	
Chesterfield -	6,000	- - - ditto - - -	Education - -	206	- ditto - - - -	2/6	1,500	2,500	Females.
Chichester - -	9,000	- - - ditto - - -	Mutual improvement	235	- ditto - - - -	2/	1,700	7,200	- - Three other societies in the town.
Chorley -	-	- - - ditto - - -	Inactive - - -	- -	Tradesmen and operatives.	—	—	—	
Clapham -	13,000	- - Literary and Scientific Institution.	Social and educational	157	Tradesmen - - -	2/6	900	3,500	
Clapham -	-	Athenæum - - - -	Lectures - - -	60	Unemployed.	—	—	—	
Cockermouth - -	5,000	Mechanics' Institution - -	Mutual improvement	150	Tradesmen - - -	1/3	538	2,160	
Coventry -	40,000	- - - ditto - - -	Education - -	400	Mechanics and tradesmen	2/6	2,000	—	
Cleckheaton - -	- -	- - - ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	104	Tradesmen and mechanics	5/3, 2/6, 2/, and 1/	(good)	(large)	
Darlington - -	11,000	- - - ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	279	- ditto - - - -	1/3	1,200	5,923	
Darwen - -	- -	- - - ditto - - -	Mutual improvement	114	Operatives - - -	- - -	(good)	(large)	Museum.
Deptford -	25,000	- - - ditto - - -	Scientific - -	- -	Gentlemen - - -	4/	100	- -	Apparatus.
Derby - - -	40,000	- - - ditto - - -	Social and educational	458	Tradesmen and mechanics	2/6	5,000	—	
Devonport - -	35,000	- - - ditto - - -	Education - -	650	Tradesmen - - -	2/ and 2/6	2,250	18,000	Females.
Dewsbury - -	11,000	- - - ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	176	Middle class - - -	1/1	409	1,764	
Dogley Lane (York.)	- -	- - - ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	132	Tradesmen and mechanics	5/3, 2/6, 2/, and 1/6	—	—	
Dover - - -	20,000	- - Museum, and Philosophical Institution.	Scientific - -	95	Trades and gentlemen -	5/3	7,000	2,160	
Doncaster - -	- -	Mechanics' Institution - -	Educational and social	200	Tradesmen and mechanics	3/, 2/6, and 1/	—	—	
Driffield (York.) -	- -	- - - ditto - - -	Mutual improvement	172	Operatives - - -	1/6 and 1/	—	—	
East Looe - -	1,000	- - - ditto - - -	Lectures - - -	90	Mechanics - - -	1/3	200	1,500	
East Retford - -	7,000	- - Literary and Scientific Institution.	Literary - - -	300	All classes - - -	5/, 2/6, and 1/3	2,000	18,000	
Elland - - -	- -	Mechanics' Institution - -	Educational - -	80	Operatives - - -	1/3 and 1/	—	—	
Epworth - -	2,000	- - - ditto - - -	Inactive - - -	30	Tradesmen and mechanics	1/	300	- -	No room.
Exeter - - -	38,000	Literary Society - - -	- - Educational and mutual improvement.	420	Assistants - - -	3/ and 1/6	900	- -	- - Females. Property vested in town council.
Falmouth - -	9,000	Royal Polytechnic - - -	- - Educational and scientific.	400	All classes - - -	1/3 to 1 *l.*	200	- -	Prizes.
Faversham - -	5,000	- - Literary and Scientific Institution.	Mutual improvement	300	Tradesmen - - -	5/	600	—	
Fleetwood -	2,000	Mechanics' Institution - -	Educational - -	120	Tradesmen and mechanics	2/ and 1/	300	2,500	Females.
Folkestone - -	7,000	Institution - - - -	Education - -	84	Gentlemen and tradesmen	5/ and 2/6	600	1,240	

(continued)

TABLE of the Mechanics' Institutions of *England* and *Wales*, their Libraries, and Yearly Issues of Books—*continued.*

NAME OF TOWN.	Population.	NAME OF INSTITUTION.	CHARACTER.	Number of Members.	Class of Persons Using it.	Subscription Quarterly.	Volumes in Library.	Yearly Total Issue.	REMARKS.
Frome Selwood	12,000	Literary and Scientific	Scientific and literary	130	All classes	5/3 and 2/3	1,800	- -	Females.
Garforth	- -	Mechanics'	Mutual improvement	48	Operatives	5/ and 6/	small	small	- - No novels admitted.
Goole	4,000	- ditto	Social	60	Tradesmen	2/6	263	1,800	
Grantham	10,000	Philosophical Institution	- - Mutual improvement and scientific.	111	- ditto	2/6	1,000	1,440	
Gravesend	20,000	Mechanics' Institution	Social and educational	180	- ditto	2/	1,000	7,800	
Great Horton	20,000	- - - ditto	Mutual improvement	85	Operatives	1/6	800	8,640	Females.
Greenwich	80,000	- - Society for the Diffusion of Knowledge.	Social and educational	1,200	All classes	2/6	8,000	36,500	- ditto. Increased since new hall built.
Guildford	7,000	Institution	Concerts and lectures	235	Tradesmen	2/6 and 5/	1,600	25,000	
Grassington	- -	Mechanics' Institution	Mutual improvement	28	Tradesmen and mechanics	2/6 and 1/1	—	—	
Guiseley	- -	- - - ditto	- - ditto	52	Operatives	5/ and 2/	—	—	
Halifax	28,000	- - - ditto	Social and educational	343	All classes	2/	2,400	4,000	
Hanley	24,000	Pottery Mechanics' Institution	Educational	160	Tradesmen	2/6	2,400	4,320	
Haslingden	8,000	Mechanics' Institution	- ditto	150	Middle classes	2/	1,000	14,000	
Hastings and St. Leonard's.	12,000	- - - ditto	Mutual improvement	160	Assistants	2/	900	3,650	
Haydon Bridge	1,000	News-room and Library	- - - -	44	Tradesmen	3/	700	720	
Helston	4,000	Mutual Improvement	Mutual improvement	- -	- ditto	1/3	—	—	
Hunslet	—								
Helston	4,000	Reading Room	- - ditto	100	- - - - -	- - -	3,000	—	
Huddersfield (2)	—								
Hereford	12,000	Mechanics' Institution	- - Social and mutual improvement.	150	Tradesmen	1/3 and 1/3	400	7,300	Females.
Holmforth	- -	- - - ditto	Mutual improvement	200	All classes	5/, 3/, and 1/1	—	—	
Hexham	500	- - Mechanics', Literary and Scientific.	Educational	198	- ditto	1/ and 2/	1,500	5,400	- ditto.
Holdbech (Leeds)	- -	Mechanics' Institution	- ditto	200	Operatives	/7½	—	—	
Heywood	13,000	- - - ditto	- ditto	120	- ditto	1/ and 2/	400	2,000	- ditto.
High Green (Yorks.)	- -	- - - ditto	Mutual improvement	14	- ditto	5/ and 1/6	—	—	
Islington	65,000	Literary and Scientific Society	Literary and scientific	600	Gentlemen	10/6	9,000	73,000	
Keithley	1,100	Mechanics' Institution	Mutual improvement	221	All classes	2/2	1,537	3,925	
Knaresborough									
Kelso	5,000	- - Literary and Polytechnic Institution.	- - - -	80	Mechanics	1/	262	1,000	
Kendal (only institution in the county).	12,000	Mechanics' Institution	Mutual improvement	150	Tradesmen	1/ and 1/6	2,000	10,800	Females.
Kirkstall									
Kensington	40,000	Institute	- - - -	190	- ditto	2/6	500	7,200	
Kent	—								
Kingsbridge	—								
Kirkheaton	—								

Lancaster	16,000	Mechanics' Institution	- - Educational and mutual improvement.	145	Tradesmen	1/3	2,000	6,400	
Launceston	2,500	Mutual Instruction Institution	Mutual improvement	80	Mechanics	/6 and 1/	30	—	
Leamington	18,000	- - Literary and Scientific Institution.	Literary and scientific	200	Shopmen	2/6	600	7,000	
Leeds	15,000	Mechanics' Institution	Educational	1,700	All classes	15/, 12/, 10/, 8/, and 5/	6,500	54,000	Females.
Leek	8,000	- - ditto	Mutual improvement	200	Tradesmen and mechanics	1/3 and 5/3	1,000	7,300	
Leigh	8,500	- - ditto	- - ditto	188	Mechanics	1/6 and 1/	850	11,000	Females.
Lewes	10,000	- - ditto	- - Social, and mutual improvement.	241	All classes	1/, 1/6, and 2/6	2,406	5,224	- ditto.
Liskeard	3,000	- - Society for the Acquirement of Useful Knnwledge.	Lectures	110	Tradesmen	1/3 and 2/	500	—	
Lockwood	—								
Liverpool	350,000	Mechanics' Institution	School	3,123	All classes	2/6, 5/3, and 1/3	14,160	90,000	Females and school.
Ditto		Collegiate Institution.	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ditto		Roscoe Club.	—	—	—	—	—	—	
London (11)		Mechanics' Institution		704	Tradesmen	6/	7,000	—	
Ditto		Whittington Club	Social	2,100	Middle class	5/3 and 2/7½	- -	- -	Females.
Ditto		- - Jews General Literary and Scientific.	- - Scientific and mutual improvement.	400	Tradesmen	- - -	4,000	—	
Ditto (Marylebone)		Literary and Scientific	Literary and Scientific	350	Tradesmen, &c.	10/6 and 5/3	5,000	21,900	Females.
Ditto (Bermondsey)		Literary Institution	- - ditto	100	Clerks, &c.	2/	500	—	
Ditto (West London)		- - Literary and Scientific Mechanics'.	- - ditto	333	All classes	7/ and 3/	450	10,950	Females. Including other books lent to Institution.
Lowestoft	6,000	Mechanics' Institution	Mutual improvement	100	- ditto -	1/	600	4,500	
Ludlow	5,000	- - ditto	- - ditto	80	Tradesmen	2/ and 1/	270	Small	
Lynn	17,000	- - ditto	- - ditto	120	Mechanics	1/6	450	8,840	
Malton		Mechanics'	- - ditto	11	Tradesmen and mechanics	2/6 and 1/	—	—	
Macclesfield	40,000	Useful Knowledge Society	Educational	250	Operatives	2/	2,000	12,000	
Maidstone	20,000	Literary and Mechanics'	Social and educational	371	Tradesmen	2/ and 1/6	3,000	1,150	Females and school.
Manchester	14,000	Ancoat's Lyceum	Educational	250	Operatives	2/ and 1/	2,650	18,250	- - ditto.
Ditto		Athenæum	Social	2,100	- - Gentlemen, merchants, clerks, &c.	6/3	13,000	90,000	
Ditto (Harpuckey)		Mechanics' Institution	- - Educational and mutual improvement.	—	—	—	—	—	
Ditto		Miles' Platting Institution	Educational and social	147	Operatives	2/ and 1/6	1,500	2,280	Females.
Ditto		Mechanics' Institution	- - ditto	2,300	Tradesmen and mechanics	5/ and 2/6	12,500	90,000	- ditto.
Marlborough	4,000	Mutual Improvement Society	Mutual improvement	90	Middle class	2/6	800	3,000	
Marsden		Mechanics' Institution	- - ditto	60	Tradesmen and mechanics	—	—	—	
Maidenhead	2,000	- - Literary and Scientific Mechanics'.	- - ditto	- -	All classes	2/6	600	2,500	
Margate	11,000	- - Literary and Scientific Institution.	- - ditto	156	Tradesmen	5/3 and 2/7½	1,300	- -	Museum.
Middlesborough		Mechanics' Institution	Educational	124	- - ditto	2/, 1/6, and 1/	—	—	
Modbury	2,000	- - ditto	Mutual improvement	90	Middle class	1/ and 1/7½	533	1,000	House given.
Monmouth	6,000	Reading Society	- - ditto	17	Tradesmen	2/	60	—	
Morle	5,000	Young Men's Improvement	- - ditto	120	Operatives	1/	520	2,500	

(continued)

TABLE of the Mechanics' Institutions of *England* and *Wales*, their Libraries, and Yearly Issues of Books—*continued.*

NAME OF TOWN.	Population.	NAME OF INSTITUTION.	CHARACTER.	Number of Members.	Class of Persons Using it.	Subscription Quarterly.	Volumes in Library.	Yearly Total Issue.	REMARKS.
Morpeth	3,500	Mechanics' Institution	Mutual improvement	140	Tradesmen and mechanics	2/	2,000	33,800 (?) (probably 6,246)	
Mosley	- -	Mechanics' Institution	Education	130	- - ditto	5/, 1/6, and 1/	—	—	
Newark-on-Trent	11,000	- - - ditto	Mutual improvement	218	- - ditto	2/6, 1/6, and 1/	1,600	17,300	Females.
Newport (Isle of Wight)	- -	Athenæum and Mechanics'	- - ditto	100	Assistants	2/	600	4,320	
New Brentford	18,653	Mechanics' Institution	- - ditto	152	- - - - -	3/6 and 2/6	1,150	8,800	Females.
Newbury	6,400	- - - ditto	Literary and Scientific	160	Gentlemen and tradesmen	2/6 and 5/3	1,200	4,000	
Newtown	—								
Newcastle-on-Tyne	90,000	- - Scientific and Mechanics' Institution.	- - Educational and mutual improvement.	400	Tradesmen	3/	8,430	24,000	
Newport (Monmouth)	18,000	Athenæum and Mechanics'	Educational	256	- - ditto	2/ and 1/	800	5,000	
Newport (Hants)	—								
Northampton	25,000	Mechanics' Institution	Educational	600	- - ditto	1/6 and 2/6	8,000	29,200	
Newport	—								
Nottingham	60,000	Mechanics' Institution	Educational and social	904	All classes	1/6	4,500	40,150	
Ditto	- -	Peoples' College	Educational	- -	- - - - -	10/	—	—	
Oldham	- -	Athenæum	Mutual improvement	- -	Mechanics	2/	260	300	
Ditto	40,000	Lyceum	- - Educational and mutual improvement.	180	Middle classes	3/6 and 2/	1,120	5,300	Females.
Otley	4,000	Useful Instruction Society	Mutual improvement	60	Tradesmen	1/3	350	2,000	
Ovendon	1,200	- - Mixenden Mechanics' Institution.	Educational	41	Labourers	- - -	86	2,000	- - Odd Fellows, and school.
Pateley Bridge	- -	Mechanics' Institution	- - ditto	80	Operatives	2/6 and 1/	—	—	
Patricroft	- -	Institute	- - ditto	65	Tradesmen and labourers	1/6	700	- -	School.
Peterborough	8,000	Mechanics' Institution	Mutual improvement	115	Tradesmen and mechanics	2/ and 1/	1,050	20,000	Females.
Ponsanooth	1,000	Institution	- - ditto	30	Tradesmen and miners	1/	100	780	
Plymouth	40,000	Mechanics' Institution	Educational	480	Middle classes	3/3, 2/2, and 2/6	1,800	Large.	
Pontefract	7,000	Mechanics' Library	Mutual improvement	107	Tradesmen	1/	950	—	
Portsmouth	60,000	Literary and Philosophical	- - - -	100	Gentlemen	5/3	1,500	None.	
Prescot	5,000	Mechanics' Institution	- - - - -	- -	- - - - -	2/6	700	- -	School.
Poplar	—								
Ditto	25,000	Literary Institute	Mutual improvement	90	Mechanics and tradesmen	2/6	1,100	1,500	
Portsmouth	60,000	Athenæum	- - ditto	305	Tradesmen	2/	700	2,500	
Preston	60,000	- - Institution for Diffusion of Knowledge.	Educational and social	620	All classes	1/7½	3,800	—	
Ditto	- -	Literary and Philosophical	Literary and scientific	236	Gentlemen	5/6	3,000	8,640	
Rastrick	—								
Reigate	4,584	Mechanics' Institution	Mutual improvement	120	Tradesmen	3/ and 1/6	830	1,250	
Richmond (York)	4,000	- - - ditto	Social and educational	160	Tradesmen and mechanics	1/6 and 1/	300	1,500	
Rochdale	25,000	Peoples' Institution	Mutual improvement	250	- - ditto	1/6	750	2,850	

Rochdale - -	- -	Athenæum - - - -	Mutual improvement	100	Tradesmen - - -	3/9	500	- -	Apparatus.
Ripon - - -	6,000	- - Mechanics' Institution, Literary and Scientific.	Social and educational	240	Gentlemen - - -	2/6, 2/, and 1/	600	1,600	
Reading - -	22,000	- - Literary and Scientific Institution.	- - - -	580	Tradesmen - - -	2/6, 1/6, and 1/3	2,000	9,000	Ladies.
Rhodes (near Manchester).	—								
Romsey - -	6,000	Literary and Scientific Society	Literary and scientific	- -	- ditto - - - -	7/6	800	small.	
Ripley - - -	—								
Rugby - - -	9,000	Institute - - - -	Educational - -	120	Tradesmen and mechanics	1/6	200	- -	New.
Ryde - - -	7,000	- - Literary and Scientific Institution.	- ditto - - -	200	Gentlemen and shopmen -	2/	400	5,000	
Saddleworth - -	- -	- - - - - -	- ditto.	—	—	—	--	—	
Salford - - -	90,000	Mechanics' Institution - -	- - - -	250	Mechanics - -	2/ and 1/6	2,700	12,600	Females.
St. Agnes - -	1,400	- - Miners' and Mechanics' Institution.	Mutual improvement	50	All classes - - -	1/6 and 1/	153	500	
St. Helliers -	36,000	Mechanics' Institution - -	- - ditto - -	200	Tradesmen - - -	3/3	1,436	2,500	
St. Ives - - -	4,000	- - Society for acquirement of Useful Knowledge.	- ditto - -	70	Shopmen - - -	1/6	150	—	
Scarborough - -	12,000	Mechanics' Institution - -	Educational - -	270	- ditto - - -	2/6 and 1/6	1,200	7,000	Females.
Selby - - -	5,000	- - - ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	135	- ditto - - -	2/6	300	—	
Sheffield - -	- -	- - - ditto - - -	- ditto - - -	486	Tradesmen - - -	2/6 and 1/6	2,025	6,700	
Ditto - -	- -	Athenæum - - - -	Social - - -						
Sheerness - -	8,000	- - Isle of Sheppy Mechanics' Institution.	Mutual improvement	40	- ditto - - -	2/	800	2,000	
Shildon - - -	5,000	- - Literary and Scientific Institution.	- - ditto - -	40	Pitmen and mechanics -	1/	70	1,500	
Shrewsbury - -	20,000	- - Shropshire Mechanics' Institution.	Educational - -	220	Tradesmen - - -	2/6	1,600	6,000	
Slough - - -	2,500	Mechanics' Institution - -	- - - -	130	Tradesmen and mechanics	5/3, 3/6, and 2/	200	1,000	
Southampton - -	34,000	Polytechnic Institution - -	Mutual improvement	300	Middle class - - -	2/ and 2/6	1,200	12,000	
Sowerby Bridge -									
Stafford - -	11,000	Mechanics' Institution - -	- - ditto - -	180	Tradesmen and mechanics	1/6	550	2,000	
Staleybridge - -	25,000	- - - ditto - - -	- - ditto - -	150	Operatives - - -	2/	886	3,000	
Stamford - -	8,000	Institution - - - -	Literary - - -	- -	- - - - -	5/3 and 2/6	1,000	3,650	
Stanningley - -	4,500	Mechanics' Institution - -	Mutual improvement	44	Operatives - - -	2/	226	1,500	
Stepney - -	66,000	Literary and Philosophical -	Social and educational	350	Middle class - - -	5/3	4,000	36,000	
Stockport - -	50,000	Mechanics' Institution - -	Educational - -	516	- ditto - - -	2/	2,100	2,000	
Stockton-on-Tees -	12,000	Literary Society - - -	Mutual improvement	100	Tradesmen - - -	1/6	none.	—	
Stockton-on-Borks -	--								
Stonehouse - -	8,000	- - Literary and Scientific Institution.	- - Social, and mutual improvement.	250	- ditto - - -	2/6	700	10, 00	
Stourbridge - -	8,000	Mechanics' Institution - -	Mutual improvement	134	- ditto - - -	2/6	1,100	—	
Stroud - - -	8,000	Athenæum - - - -	- - - -	- -	Assistants - - -	2/6	70	- -	New.
Sunderland - -	60,000	Literary and Philosophical -	- - Social, and mutual improvement.	460	Tradesmen - - -	3/	6,000	18,000	
Taunton - -	12,000	Mechanics' Institution - -	Mutual improvement	150	- ditto - - -	2/	11,150	3,600	
Thirsk - - -	3,000	- - - ditto - - -	- - ditto - -	120	Mechanics and tradesmen	4/, 2/, and 1/	300	2,000	

(*continued*)

Table of the Mechanics' Institutions of *England* and *Wales*, their Libraries, and Yearly Issue of Books—*continued*.

NAME OF TOWN.	Population.	NAME OF INSTITUTION.	CHARACTER.	Number of Members.	Class of Persons Using it.	Subscription Quarterly.	Volumes in Library.	Yearly Total Issue.	REMARKS.
Thorne	—								
Tiverton	1,200	Literary Institution	News-room	14	Tradesmen	2/6	100	old books.	
Torpoint	2,500	Literary and Scientific	Mutual improvement	90	Mechanics and tradesmen	2/2	800	1,900	
Todmorden	8,000	Athenæum	Educational	1,000	ditto	2/	650	—	
Totness	5,000	Mechanics' Institution	- - - -	250	Tradesmen	2/6 and 2/	1,000	7,300	Ladies.
Towcester	3,000	Literary Institution	Mutual improvement	54	ditto	2/6	500	3,600	
Trowbridge	12,000	Mechanics' Institution	ditto	70	Tradesmen and mechanics	2/6 and 1/6	287	1,825	
Truro	12,000	Literary Institution	ditto	150	ditto	2/6 and 1/6	600	2,500	
Tyldesley	4,500	Mechanics' Institution	ditto	60	Operatives	1/6	320	1,250	
Uxbridge	4,000	Young Men's Improvement	Social, and mutual improvement.	60	Tradesmen	2/	130	not lent.	
Wentworth	—								
Wallingford	2,800	Mechanics' Institution	Mutual improvement	130	ditto	1/3 and 5/3	imperfect.		
Wakefield	14,500	ditto	Educational	815	ditto	2/6, 1/3, and 1/	3,242	9,300	
Ditto	- -	Church Instruction.	—						
Walworth	- -	Literary and Scientific Institution.	Mutual improvement	600	Tradesmen and clerks	2/6	1,500	3,000	
Wellingborough	5,000	Mechanics' Institution	ditto	95	Tradesmen	1/	573	2,500	
Warrington	23,000	ditto	Educational	431	Tradesmen and mechanics	1/6 and 1/	2,700	9,800	
Wednesbury	12,000	ditto	Mutual improvement	107	- - - - -	2/6	1,100	2,920	
West Bromwich	35,000	Institution for Advancement of Knowledge.	ditto	100	All classes	5/ and 3/	1,100	2,920	
Ditto	- -	Hill Top Mechanics' Institution.	ditto	53	Tradespeople and mechanics.	5/, 3/, and 1/6	600	1,480	
Ditto	- -	Peoples' Library.	—						
Westminster	- -	Mechanics' Institution	Social and educational	515	ditto	- - -	4,300	12,600	
Whitby	10,000	Institution of Popular Science	Mutual improvement and literary.	200	All classes	1/6	600	3,325	
Whitehaven	16,500	Assistants and Mechanics' Institution.	Social	125	Assistants and mechanics	1/3	560	2,000	
Wilsden	2,600	Mechanics' Institution	Mutual improvement	130	Working men	1/6	1,300	2,500	
Wigan	30,000	ditto	Educational	120	Operatives	1/6	1,000	1,750	
Winchester	11,000	ditto	Mutual improvement	100	Middle classes	3/	920	1,500	
Winlaton	2,500	Literary, Scientific, and Mechanics'.	ditto	50	Mechanics	2/	1,300	5,000	
Windsor	10,000	ditto	ditto	150	Tradesmen	2/6	1,000	7,000	
Wolverhampton	40,000	Athenæum	Educational and social	- -	Assistants	2/6	1,200	5,400	
Woolwich	32,000	Institution for Advancement of Knowledge.	ditto	323	Shopkeepers and mechanics.	2/6	1,000	14,000	
Yarmouth (Great)	25,000	Young Men's Institution	Mutual Improvement	120	Shopmen	2/6	200	not lent.	
Yeadon	4,500	Mutual Improvement Society	ditto	95	All classes	1/1	1,400	2,500	
York	35,000	Institution of Popular Science	Social and educational	621	Middle classes	2/6 and 1/6	2,590	18,250	

Appendix, No. 3.

Similar Institutions, of which less authentic Information has been obtained, exist in the following Places:

Aberystwith.
Abingdon.
Addington.
Allendale.
Alnwich.
Alresford.
Alton.
Alverstoke.
Ampthill.
Andover.
Ashbourne.
Auckland.

Banbury.
Barnard Castle.
Barnsley.
Bellingham.
Berwick-upon-Tweed.
Biddiford.
Bierlow.
Bishop's Stortford.
Bishop's Waltham.
Bishop-Wearmouth.
Blackwall.
Bordesley.
Brampton.
Bridgewater.
Brierley.
Brightside.
Brixton-St.-Matthew.
Brompton (near Scarborough).
Buckingham.
Burslem.
Bury St. Edmunds.

Callingworth.
Cardiff.
Casharrack.
Castletown.
Chatham.
Chelmsford.
Chelsea.
Cheltenham.
Clifton.
Clitheroe.
Colchester.
Colnebrook.
Congleton.
Corbridge.
Cowes.
Crayford.
Croydon.
Cromford.

Deal.
Dean Forest.
Deptford.
Devizes.
Dorchester.
Dorking.
Douglas.
Droitwich.
Dudley.
Durham.

Ellesmere.

Fareham.
Finsbury.

Gainsborough.
Gloucester.
Gosport.
Guernsey.
Gwenap.
Hackney (South).
Ham (West).
Hammersmith.
Hampstead.
Hay.
Hayle.
Haydon Bridge.
Hemel Hempstead.
Holloway.
Horton.
Howdon.
Hull.
Hyde.

Ilkeston.
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TO

REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
23 *July* 1849.

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London Domestic Mission. Formation of a library in Spitalfields at the present time by the London Domestic Mission, *Cockran* 2709–2711.

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London Library. Great accommodation afforded by the London Library in lending books for the purposes of study, *M. Guizot* 546–549——Excellence of the establishment connected with the London Library; there is not any circulating library on the Continent to be compared with it, *Meyer* 2203–2206.

London University. It is the opinion of many that were Dr. Williams's Library removed to the neighbourhood of the London University it would be of much more use than it is now, *Cogan* 1045.——*See* also *Students.*

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1. *Cathedral Library.*
2. *Ordnance Memoir.*

1. *Cathedral Library:*

Account of the Cathedral Library at Londonderry, and terms of the foundation, *Edwards* 3350.

2. *Ordnance Memoir:*

Publication of the Ordnance Memoir of the city and county of Derry, from Irish manuscripts, *Curry* 2590.

Loss of Books. Account of the losses sustained by public libraries on the Continent from the system of lending books, *Edwards* 113, 114; *M. Guizot* 496–498——The greater part of the inconvenience and losses might be removed were proper rules attached to the practice of lending books, *ib.* 508——Opinion that an occasional loss of books is a very reasonable tax to pay for the general use of the books of public libraries, *ib.* 575, 576——Great losses of books sustained in some of the public libraries of France, caused by the bad administration of affairs, *ib.* 577——Very small loss incurred by Sion College Library from the system of lending books to readers, *Christmas* 853.

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Lothians. Account of the itinerating libraries established in the Lothians of Scotland for the gratuitous issue of books, *Rep.* xii; *Edwards* 308–311; *Brown* 1772 *et seq.*

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Lower Orders. Improved condition of the lower orders using the Ragged School Library in Marylebone, *Imray* 3213.

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Lubeck. Particulars respecting the public libraries at Lubeck; how supported; conditions upon which accessible to the public, *Meyer* 2129 *et seq.*

Lupton, Rev. *James.* Control exercised over Sion College Library by the Rev. James Lupton, rector of St. Michael, Queenhithe, *Christmas* 860.

Lynn (Norfolk.) Account of a parochial library in existence at Lynn in Norfolk, *Smith* 2318.

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Mackenzie, Rev. *Henry.* (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Vicar of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, 2052——Inclination of the working classes to form associations for the purpose of procuring books, 2052, 2053——Particulars respecting a subscription library established for the working classes in White Hart-court in Whitcomb-street, 2055–2097——Active part taken by the Rev. Mr. Brereton in the formation of the library in White Hart-court, 2064–2089——Letter from Mr. Brereton, dated 14 May 1849, respecting the origin of the library in White Hart-court, 2070——Improved condition of the working classes since the formation of the library in St. Martin's, 2083–2092.

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Manchester Mechanics' Institution. Thriving state of the Manchester Mechanics' Institution; policy of exempting it from local taxation, *Brotherton* 3411.

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1. *Copies of Original Manuscripts.*
2. *Advocates' Library* (Edinburgh).
3. *Cambridge University.*
4. *Ireland.*
5. *Boulogne Library.*
6. *Florence Library.*

1. *Copies of Original Manuscripts:*

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2. *Advocates' Library* (Edinburgh):

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3. *Cambridge University:*

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4. *Ireland:*

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5. *Boulogne Library:*

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Marischal College, (Aberdeen.) Complaint of the students of the Marischal College of Aberdeen of not having free access to the King's College Library, *Webster* 720, 721——Facilities for the admission of the public to the library of the Marischal College at Aberdeen, *ib.* 735——The library of the Marischal College is ill calculated for a public library, *ib.* 754——Account of the library attached to the Marischal College in Aberdeen; reason why not open to the public, *Imray* 3115, 3116. 3121–3125——Valuable collection of theological works contained in the library of the Marischal College, *ib.* 3145.——*See* also *Students.*

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1. *Archbishop Tenison's Library.*
2. *White Hart Court Library.*
3. *Sunday Schools.*

1. *Archbishop Tenison's Library:*

At the time of the foundation of Archbishop Tenison's Library, the parish of St. Martin's comprehended the parishes now occupied by St. Martin's, St. Anne's, St. James's

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1. *Archbishop Tenison's Library*—continued.

James's, and St. George's Westminster, *Hale* 873, 874——Dispute anterior to 1835 respecting the right of the parishioners of St. Martin's to free admission to Archbishop Tenison's Library, *ib.* 892.

2. *White Hart Court Library :*

Description of the Subscription Library established in White Hart-court, Whitcombe-street, for the benefit of the working classes, *Mackenzie* 2053-2073.

3. *Sunday Schools :*

Great want of Sunday schools in the parish of St. Martin's, Westminster, *Mackenzie* 2099.——*See* also *Brereton,* Rev. Mr. *Tenison's Library.*

Martin's, St., Subscription Reading Society. Establishment of St. Martin's Subscription Reading Society in connexion with Archbishop Tenison's Library, *Hale* 879–883——Date of the foundation of the St. Martin's Subscription Reading Room, *ib.* 943–945.

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Mathematical Society of Spitalfields. Attempt made by the Mathematical Society of Spitalfields to establish a public library, *Cockran* 2708.

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1. *England and Wales generally.*
2. *Class of Books read.*

1. *England and Wales generally :*

Statement of the number of members and number of volumes in the libraries of the several mechanics' institutions in Lancashire and Cheshire, *Edwards* 305——Success of the mechanics' libraries attached to mechanics' institutions in the large towns of the West Riding, *Smiles* 1954-1956——Mechanics' institutions are confined mostly to the higher class of mechanics, and the lower order of the middle classes, *ib.* 1968. 2000——Objection of the working classes to the exaction of a fee for the support of the mechanics' library, *ib.* 1976–1978. 2002——Number of mechanics' institutions in England and Wales, *Langley* 2422——Particulars respecting the libraries attached to mechanics' institutions; how supported, terms of admission, &c., *ib.* 2423–2465——Difficulty of obtaining correct statistical information with respect to mechanics' institutions in England, *ib.* 2463–2468——Estimated number of persons belonging to mechanics' institutes, *ib.* 2470——Table of the mechanics' institutes of England and Wales, their libraries, and yearly issues of books, *App.* 310–317.

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Class of works usually taken in at the reading-rooms of mechanics' institutions in Manchester, *Jones* 1194–1196. 1200——Reason of the books in mechanics' institutes and libraries being unsatisfactory, *ib.* 1200–1203——Class of books usually composing the libraries of mechanics' institutions in the manufacturing districts, *Dawson* 1212——Exclusion of political and theological works from the libraries of mechanics' institutions, *ib.* 1220——Newspapers on each side of politics are taken in at the reading-rooms of mechanics' institutions, as also the Edinburgh and Quarterly Review, *ib.* 1324–1328——Difficulties experienced in the formation of libraries for mechanics' institutions from the class of books to be admitted, *Langley* 2449–2457.

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Medical Libraries. Freedom of access to the medical libraries of Paris compared with the same class of libraries in London, *Edwards* 160–165.

Metropolitan Parishes. There is no public library in Pimlico, none in Marylebone, none in Finsbury, and only the shadow of a departed library in Westminster, *Rep.* v; *Edwards* 201–204.

Metropolitan Public Lending Library. Proposed plan for the formation of a metropolitan public lending library, by appropriating the duplicate copies of books in the British Museum to that purpose, *Brown* 1836.

Meyer, Charles. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—German Secretary to his Royal Highness Prince Albert, 2123——Particulars respecting the public libraries of Germany; how supported, and conditions upon which they are accessible to the public, 2124–2147. 2157——The system of admission to public libraries in the German towns is somewhat analogous to the system of the British Museum, 2141——Advantages of the public libraries of Germany in the promotion of literature and science, 2148–2153——Importance of a good catalogue in a public library, 2154——Superiority of a classified catalogue to an alphabetical catalogue, 2155——Particulars of the town library at Hamburgh, and the Commercial Library, 2158–2160——Advantage of establishing commercial libraries in such towns as Liverpool, Glasgow, Hull or Bristol, Manchester and Leeds, 2161-2164——History of the foundation of the Commercial Library at Hamburgh, 2165–2169——Manner in which the university and state libraries of Germany are superintended, 2170, 2171.

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Meyer, Dr. Importance attached to Irish manuscripts in the papers presented to the British Association by Dr. Meyer, *Curry* 2576.

Milan. State of the public libraries at Milan; number of volumes contained therein, *Edwards* 60–66.

Milburn, Mr. Extract from a letter of Mr. Milburn of Thirsk, chairman of the Agricultural Society of Yorkshire, relative to the failure of public libraries, *Smiles* 1952.

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Military Schools. Establishment of libraries in connexion with the military schools in Germany, *Meyer* 2215–2218.

Milton's Works. Increasing spirit of the working classes in the manufacturing districts for the works of Milton, *Dawson* 1374.

Minerva Library at Rome. Account of the Minerva Library at Rome; freedom of access of the public thereto, *Libri* 1842–1896. 1900.

Mining Districts. Establishment and extension of mechanics' institutions in the mining and colliery districts, *Langley* 2483–2494.

Minister of the Interior. Superintendence of the public libraries of Belgium by the minister of the interior and town council, *M. Van de Weyer* 589–594——Annual reports of the state of the public libraries of Belgium are made to the minister of the interior by the librarians, *ib.* 598–604——A report is made to the minister of the interior on the nature of every book, as to whether the book deserves encouragement or not, to guide him in the number of copies for which to subscribe, *ib.* 647.

Minister of Public Instruction. Degree of supervision exercised over the public libraries of France by the minister of public instruction, *Edwards* 127; *M. Guizot* 477; *Waley* 3252——A department specially charged with public instruction should be established by the Government of this country, to have charge of museums and libraries, *Edwards* 454–459.——*See* also *Salvandy,* M. *de*

Ministerial Libraries. Account of the ministerial libraries of England, founded mostly for the use of the minister of the parish, *Edwards* 3326–3332.

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2. *France.*
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Monro, Rev. *Robert.* Degree of control exercised over Sion College library by the Rev. Robert Monro, chaplain of Bridewell Hospital, *Christmas* 860.

Montpellier. Strong desire shown by the municipal authorities to establish a good public library in the town of Montpellier, *M. Guizot* 482.

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Municipal Libraries. Advantage of establishing municipal libraries for the benefit of the working classes in provincial towns, *Libri* 1920.

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Museums Act. Opportunities which the extension of Mr. Ewart's Act for establishing museums of art offers for promoting the formation of public libraries, *Rep.* x; *Edwards* 345–348; *Smiles* 1971–1975——Ridicule thrown upon the Museums Act in the manufacturing districts; designation of the rate as the "Beetle Rate," *Dawson* 1297, 1298——Nature of the provisions of the Act of Parliament called the Museums Act, *Marsh* 1688——Opinion of Mr. Jonathan Henn, an eminent Queen's Counsel in Ireland, that, under the Museums Act, you cannot have a library in connexion with a museum, *Hamilton* 3417.——*See* also *Limerick.*

Museums of Art. Description of the museums of art usually found in provincial towns of England, *Dawson* 1295–1297——Formation of museums of art under the Museums Act at Leicester, Warrington, and Manchester, *ib.* 1299–1307.

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Musical Entertainments. See *Coffee Houses.*

Mutual Improvement Societies. Establishment of a mutual improvement society among the young men of the village of Claydon in Buckinghamshire, *Freemantle* 1396——Formation of mutual improvement societies among the operatives of Leeds, Barnsley, and Halifax; how conducted and supported, *Smiles* 1984.

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Napoleon, Emperor. Abolition of all the church and religious corporations under the domination of Napoleon in Italy, and sale of the libraries attached to them, *Libri* 1882.

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National Education Board (Ireland). Excellence of the class books issued by the Irish Education Board, *Freemantle* 1424–1427; *Maitland* 1486.

National Gallery. Beneficial results of the free admission of the public to the National Gallery, *Rep.* iii; *Edwards* 293–296.

National Hall (Holborn). Origin of the formation of the National Hall in Holborn, *Lovett* 2761–2766——State of the schools in connexion with the National Hall, *ib.* 2761–2765 ——Manner in which the National Hall is supported; class of books taken in at that institution, *ib.* 2807–2811——Donations made to the National Hall of books by benevolent individuals, *ib.* 2816.——*See* also *Fox,* Mr., M. P.

National Library at Paris. Readiness and dispatch with which books are supplied to applicants in the Royal Library at Paris, *Edwards* 423–427——Annual loss incurred by the National Library of Paris by lending books, *M. Guizot* 496——As many as twelve, thirteen, or fifteen copies of the same work are to be found in the Royal Library of Paris; how this arises, *ib.* 503. 506——Inconvenience arising from the practice of lending books from the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, *ib.* 554——The Royal Library at Paris began to publish their catalogue in the year 1739, and it is not yet finished, *Libri* 1915——Great want of modern works in the Royal Library in Paris, *ib.* 1926.

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National Schools (Ireland). Account of the number of children attending the national schools in Ireland, *Hamilton* 3413.

Natural History. Cultivation of works on natural history by the operatives of Manchester, *Dawson* 1292——Publication of a work on the natural history of the States by the government of the United States, *Stevens* 1510–1512——Great love of the Spitalfields' weavers for birds and making collections of insects, *Cockran* 2731, 2732.

Naval Libraries. Form of catalogue which exists in the naval libraries of France, *Edwards* 3352.

New Publications. Table showing the number of volumes published within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland during each of the last 10 years, with the aggregate value at the publication price, *Edwards* 385, *p.* 30——Great deficiency in the supply of modern and useful books in the great public libraries in Italy, *Libri* 1868——Taste of the English public for modern works, as instanced in the mechanics' libraries, *Smiles* 2007–2010——Ease with which new books are obtained in the public library at Munich, *Weld* 3295——Reason of the difficulty of readers at the British Museum obtaining access to books of recent publication, *Edwards* 3297. 3304–3309.

See also *Books,* 3. *British Museum,* 1. *Copyright of Books.*

New York. Account of the several public libraries freely accessible to the people in the State of New York, *Edwards* 93; *Stevens* 1573–1585——Freedom of access of the public to the New York State Library, *ib.* 1501–1513——Number of volumes contained in the New York State Library, *ib.* 1513–1521——Good specimen of the New York Mercantile Library as a lending library, *ib.* 1562. 1571.——*See* also *University Libraries,* 2.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Excellence of the collection in the museum at Newcastle, *Dawson* 1296——Account of mechanics' institution established at Newcastle-upon-Tyne; number of members, *Langley* 2497.

Newport, Essex. Account of a parochial library in existence at Newport, in Essex, *Smith* 2318. 2333.

Newspapers. Admission of newspapers to the reading-rooms of mechanics' institutions, *Dawson* 1228——At the present time the newspapers constitute exclusively the literature of the lower classes in the rural districts of Ireland, as there are no books in the country, *Curry* 2641–2643——Large increase in the circulation of newspapers since the removal of the fourpenny stamp, *Lovett* 2786.

See also *Mechanics' Institutions,* 2. *Stamp Duty on Newspapers.*

Nichol, Professor. See *Lectures.*

Norfolk. See *Education,* 1.

Normandy. General desire shown by the rural population of Normandy to gain access to books, *M. Guizot* 519.

North Berwick (Haddingtonshire). Account of the itinerating libraries established at North Berwick, in Haddingtonshire, for the gratuitous issue of books, *Edwards* 308; *Brown* 1792.

Norwich. Account respecting the Town Library at Norwich; number of volumes, and how supported, *Smith* 2357–2373; *Edwards* 3379.

Nottingham. Description of the artisans' and operatives' library at Nottingham; how supported, *Dawson* 1216.——*See* also *Public Houses.*

Novels. Dislike of the rural population of France to reading novels; the newspapers are their novels, *M. Guizot* 563, 564.——*See* also *Waverley Novels.*

Nutt, Mr. *David.* Observations of Mr. Nutt upon the effect of the present import duty on books, in retarding the importation of foreign books into this country, *Edwards* 3380——Letter from Mr. Nutt to Sir Robert Peel, in 1841, upon the subject of the duty on foreign books, *ib.* 3382, *p.* 238, 239.

O.

Oaths. All parties are required to be sworn to certain matters as regards Trinity College Library, in Dublin, before they can gain access, *Curry* 2512–2515.

Odd Fellows. Foundation of libraries in many of the large towns in the manufacturing districts by the Society of Odd Fellows, *Dawson* 1237——Account of the Odd Fellows' Literary Institution recently founded in Leeds, *Smiles* 1984–1987.

O'Donovan, John. Employment of Mr. John O'Donovan, in consulting the Irish manuscripts, in relation to the Irish Ordnance survey, *Curry* 2573.

Operatives. The chief libraries for operatives in the manufacturing districts are those of the mechanics' institutions, *Dawson* 1212.——*See* also *Working Classes.*

Ordnance Memoirs (Ireland). Object of the antiquarian department of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, *Curry* 2506——Publication of the Ordnance Memoir of the City and County of Derry, from Irish manuscripts, *ib.* 2590——Recommendation of the British Association to Government, to continue the publication of memoirs of the whole of Ireland, *ib.*——*See* also *Irish Manuscripts.*

Ossory Diocese. Account of a library in the city of Kilkenny, founded by Bishop Otway, for the use of the clergy in the diocese of Ossory, *Hamilton* 3415.

Ottery, St. Mary (Devonshire). Account of a parochial library formerly in existence at St. Mary Ottery, in Devonshire, *Smith* 2318.

Otway, Bishop. See *Ossory Diocese.*

Overseers. Opinion with respect to vesting the property of public libraries in the overseers of parishes, where no corporation exists, *Brotherton* 3408.

Oxford University. Refusal of the University of Oxford to accept compensation under the Copyright Act, *Edwards* 374.

See also *Bodleian Library* (Oxford). *Copyright of Books,* 1. *Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. University Libraries,* 1.

P.

Palermo. Account of the public libraries at Palermo freely accessible to the public, *Libri* 1842. 1874.

Paper Duties. Impediments which the paper duties offer to the formation of public libraries in this country, *Rep.* xiii; *Edwards* 393; *Dawson* 1335–1339——There is no excise duty on the manufacture of paper in Belgium, *Rep.* xiii; *M. Van de Weyer* 649——Opinion that the removal of the duties on paper and other restrictions would tend much to the improvement of the people, *Lovett* 2818——Expediency of the total abolition of the duty on paper, *Edwards* 3384.——*See* also *Evasion of Duty.*

Papier Maché Trade. Advantage of the School of Design at Birmingham to young men studying the papier maché trade, *Dawson* 1284.

Paris. List of the public libraries in Paris; aggregate number of volumes contained therein, *Edwards* 42–47——Average annual sum allotted by the French Government towards the support of the public libraries of Paris, *ib.* 105——Great loss and inconvenience resulting from the insufficiency of the regulations in the public libraries of Paris

Paris—continued.

Paris as regards the return of books, *Edwards* 123——Freedom of access to the medical and law libraries of Paris compared with the same class of libraries in London, *ib.* 160–165——Number of public libraries in Paris partaking of the Parliamentary grant, *M. Guizot* 473.

See also *Génévieve, St., Library.* *Medical Libraries.* *National Library at Paris.*

Parker Society. See *Marsh's Library,* Dublin.

Parliamentary Grants. Amount voted annually by Parliament to compensate libraries for the loss of the privilege enjoyed by them under the Copyright Act, *Rep.* v——Unanimity of opinion in favour of a grant of assistance by Government, for the formation of public libraries, *ib.* x——Government aid should be given in proportion to contributions of districts for the formation of public libraries, *Edwards* 355–358; *Smiles* 2015–2018——Account of the sums granted by Parliament for the support of public libraries and museums in the United Kingdom, from the year 1823 to the year 1848, both inclusive, *App.* 293–295——Summary of the whole of the grants for educational, literary, scientific, and artistic purposes, comprised in the British Budget of 1847, as voted by the House of Commons, *ib.* 301.

See also *British Museum,* 1. *France,* 2. *King's Inns Library,* Dublin.

PAROCHIAL LIBRARIES:

1. *England and Wales.*
2. *Scotland.*
3. *Belgium.*

1. *England and Wales:*

History of the foundation of the parochial libraries, and number of such libraries in England and Wales, *Rep.* vi; *Smith* 2334, 2335——Observations upon the expediency of extending the system of parochial libraries, *Rep.* xi——Account of several old parochial libraries established in this country, and how supported, *Edwards* 333–336——Description of an old parochial library in the vestry of a church near the village of Claydon, in Buckinghamshire, *Freemantle* 1434–1436——Extract of a letter from the secretary of the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes, upon the expediency of the Government establishing parochial or village libraries, *Smiles* 2014——Substance of the provisions of the Act of 7 Anne, c. 14, made for the management and regulation of parochial libraries, *Smith* 2336. 2338——List of the parochial and clerical libraries in England and Wales, stating where situate, date of foundation, character of library, and by whom founded, *Edwards* 3332, *p.* 221.

2. *Scotland:*

Description of the parochial libraries in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, *Webster* 748——Account of the parochial and village libraries established in the north of Scotland, how supported, and terms upon which books are lent to readers, *Imray* 3085–3098. 3102–3110——Suggestions with a view to the improvement of parochial or village libraries, *ib.* 3111——List of some of the parochial libraries of Scotland chiefly supported by voluntary contributions, *App.* 304, 305.

3. *Belgium:*

System of parochial libraries supported by private subscriptions, established in Brussels, Ghent, and Malines, for supplying the lower orders with books, *M. Van de Weyer* 623–625.——*See* also *Bray,* Dr. *Village Libraries.*

Parochial Schools (Scotland). Advantage of attaching libraries to the schools in the large towns and agricultural districts of Scotland, *Dawson* 1333, 1334; *Maitland* 1477–1485.

Peebles Institution. Letter from John Bathgate, secretary to the Peebles Institution, regarding a public library lately established in Peebles, *Ewart* 3422, *p.* 251, 252.

Peeblesshire. Introduction of the plan of itinerating libraries into the county of Peebles by the Free Church Party in Scotland, *Brown* 1818.

"*Penny Journal.*" See "*Irish Penny Journal.*"

"*Penny Magazine.*" See *Cheap Publications.*

Penny Subscriptions. Advantage of exacting a penny subscription from the borrowers of books from village libraries, *Freemantle* 1382.

" People's Journal." Great improvement of the artisans in the manufacturing districts in the art of drawing, since the appearance of the " People's Journal," *Dawson* 1280.

Periodical Publications. Preference given by persons in Manchester to reading the Edinburgh and Quarterly Review at Chetham's Library rather than the more learned works, *Jones* 1168–1175——The circulation of periodical literature has derived but little benefit from the relaxation in the postage regulations, *Lovett* 2793–2795.

See also *Mechanics' Institutions*, 2.

Pertz, Dr. Opinion of Dr. Pertz, curator of the Berlin Library, upon the subject of printed catalogues, *Edwards* 433–435.

Peterhead. Description of the Town Library at Peterhead; number of volumes, and how supported, *Imray* 3099.

Philadelphia (United States). Number of public libraries in Philadelphia, and number of volumes, *Edwards* 93——Good specimen of the Philadelphia Library, in the United States, as a lending library, *Stevens* 1564.

See also *Gerard, Stephen, of Philadelphia.*

Philosophical Institution. See *Birmingham.*

Physicians, College of. See *College of Physicians.*

Pickett, Mr. Objection to Mr. Pickett's plan of buildings made of iron for public libraries, *Imray* 3247.

Pimlico. See *Metropolitan Parishes.*

Poetry. Great delight shown by the working classes for poetry, *Dawson* 1368. 1372.

Politics. General disposition among the operatives in the manufacturing districts to study political questions, *Dawson* 1319. 1367.

Pomeroy, Archdeacon. Account of the Cathedral Library at Cork, founded in 1720, and endowed by Archdeacon Pomeroy in 1723, *Edwards* 313. 3348, 3349; *Hamilton* 3414.

Population. Proportion which the number of volumes in foreign libraries bears to the aggregate population of European states, *Edwards* 40, 41——Proportion which the number of volumes bears to every 100 inhabitants in the public libraries in London and in the chief cities of Europe, *ib.* 194, 195.

See also *Census Commissioners.* *Manufacturing Districts.* *Working Classes.*

Portico Library (Manchester). Great injury done to the books in the Portico Library, Manchester, by gas, *Jones* 1139–1142.

Portsmouth Athenæum. Account of the Mechanics' Institution established at Portsmouth; number of members, &c., *Langley* 2501.

Postage Regulations. See *Periodical Publications.*

Potter's Coffee House (Long Acre). Account of the library attached to this coffee-house for the use of persons frequenting it, *Lovett* 2773.

Presbyterial Libraries. List of the places at which Presbyterial libraries have been established in Scotland, *Edwards* 3332.

Presbytery of Antrim. Account of a public library in the town of Belfast, belonging to the Presbytery of Antrim, *Hamilton* 3414.

Presents of Books. Large number of presents of books made to the library of the Royal Society, *Weld* 3275——Support which special libraries in large towns would receive from men who have collections of works upon special subjects, *Edwards* 3393.

See also *Donations.* *Record Commissioners' Report.*

Preston. See *Sheppard's Library* (Preston).

Price of Books. Estimate of the cost of the formation of a library of 20,000 or 30,000 volumes, *Edwards* 3390——Letter of Mr. Edwards, giving the average prices of books added to various libraries in Great Britain and Ireland, *ib.* 3402, *p.* 245.

See also *Rodd*, Mr. *Thomas.*

Printed Catalogues. Importance of every public library having a printed catalogue, *Rep.* xii, xiii——Account of the public libraries on the Continent that have printed catalogues of their books, *Edwards* 3362–3367——Saving of time and labour in the preparation of a catalogue, by allowing the compositor to set up the title in print in the library itself, *ib.* 3376. 3378.——*See* also *Catalogues*, 3. *Pertz*, Dr.

Prints. Damage done to prints occasionally in the public libraries of France, *M. Guizot* 502.

Prior, Thomas, of Rathdowney. Foundation of the Royal Dublin Society in 1731, by Thomas Prior, of Rathdowney, in the Queen's County, *Colles* 2853.

Private Libraries. Formation of small private libraries of their own by the better paid mechanics and artizans in London, *Lovett* 2796.

Private Subscriptions. How far the public libraries in the provincial towns of Belgium are supported by Government grants in aid of private subscriptions, *M. Van de Weyer* 703, 704——Willingness of the public to co-operate with the Government or local authorities in the formation of public libraries, *Dawson* 1347–1349; *Edwards* 3399–3401——There would be no difficulty in obtaining voluntary subscriptions towards the support of village libraries, *Freemantle* 1414.——*See* also *Aberdeen.*

Prize Essays. The practice of giving prizes for essays written by the working classes is very prevalent in Birmingham, *Dawson* 1369.

PROVINCIAL LIBRARIES:

1. *England and Wales.*
2. *Ireland.*
3. *Scotland.*
4. *Belgium.*
5. *France.*
6. *Italy.*
7. *Continent of Europe.*

1. *England and Wales:*

Expediency of establishing public libraries in all the provincial towns, to be entrusted to the management of committees elected annually by the frequenters of the libraries, *Lovett* 2822–2827——Great benefit which literary men in the provincial towns in England would derive from the establishment of public libraries, *Waley* 3074, 3075.

2. *Ireland:*

Destitution of the provincial towns of Ireland in public libraries; there are no libraries that can be at all considered of a public character, *Hamilton* 3414.

3. *Scotland:*

List of some provincial libraries in Scotland chiefly supported by voluntary contributions, *App.* 303, 304.

4. *Belgium:*

It has been a great error hitherto prevailing in the formation of provincial libraries, in not consulting the convenience of the locality with respect to the selection of works and books, *M. Van de Weyer* 706–713.

5. *France:*

State of the public libraries in the provincial towns in France, *M. Guizot* 470——Extent to which the Government of France assist the public libraries in the provincial towns, *ib.* 474——How the rates for the support of the public libraries in the provincial towns in France are levied by the municipal authorities, *ib.* 480–484——Valuable and curious books found in the public libraries of some of the small towns in France, *ib.* 572, 573.

6. *Italy:*

Account of the municipal libraries established in the provincial towns of Italy, *Libri* 1877–1881.

7. *Continent of Europe:*

Table showing the names of all towns in Europe containing public libraries, under the respective States to which they belong, *App.* 279–285.

See also *Manufacturing Districts.* *Town Libraries.*

Prussia. Number of public libraries in Prussia, together with the aggregate number of volumes, *Edwards* 33.

Ptolemy's System of Astronomy. Beautiful translation of Ptolemy's system of astronomy in the collection of ancient manuscripts in the Royal Irish Academy, *Curry* 2650.

Public-Houses. Nature of the libraries formed in public-houses in Nottingham, *Dawson* 1329.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

1. *Free Admission of the Public to Libraries.*
2. *Cost of Public Libraries.*
3. *Great Britain and Ireland.*
4. *Provincial Towns.*
5. *Foreign Libraries.*
6. *France.*

1. *Free Admission of the Public to Libraries:*

Opinion that all libraries receiving a Treasury grant annually should be considered public libraries, as also libraries that receive books from authors, *Rep.* v; *Edwards* 375, 376; *Colles* 2895–2897; *Imray* 3136——Suggestions with regard to the increased utility of existing libraries in this country, *Edwards* 403——Expediency of the conversion of libraries in a partial state of disuse into public libraries, and rendering the duplicate copies of works in the British Museum available as an inducement for their establishment, *Marsh* 1768——Opinion that the establishment of public libraries in Dublin and in the provincial towns of Ireland would be the most prudent step that the Government could possibly take, *Curry* 2613, 2614. 2623——Opinion that the establishment of public libraries in different parts of the country would be the greatest blessing that could be conferred upon the people, *Jones* 2669; *Cockran* 2737–2740——Advantage of public libraries in aiding the intellectual and moral improvement of the people, *Lovett* 2798.

2. *Cost of Public Libraries:*

Opinion as to the probable cost of the erection of a public library to accommodate 10,000 people, *Imray* 3241–3245——Opinion with respect to the cost of the formation of a public library of 20,000 or 30,000 volumes, *Edwards* 3390.

3. *Great Britain and Ireland:*

Our ancestors paid much more attention to the formation of public libraries than ourselves, *Rep.* v——Definition of the term "Public Library" in this country, *Edwards* 10–12——Account of the number of public libraries in Great Britain and Ireland; aggregate number of volumes, *ib.* 130——Approximate tabular view of the principal public libraries in Great Britain and Ireland, *ib.* 130, *p.* 10, 11——Reason of the fewness of public libraries in this country as compared with other countries, *ib.* 131——Towns and parishes in England in which public libraries have been reported upon by the Charity Commissioners, *ib.* 3339–3341——Manner in which the libraries of old foundation in the United Kingdom might be made useful to the public, *ib.* 3351.

4. *Provincial Towns:*

Great want of public libraries freely accessible to the inhabitants in the large and populous towns of Liverpool, Birmingham, Sheffield, Leeds, and Hull, *Edwards* 300——Great distinction ought to be made between a library for a manufacturing town and a library for a university town, with respect to the selection of works, *M. Van de Weyer* 711——Class of people mostly frequenting the popular libraries in Leeds, 2000–2003——Suggestions for the formation of new public libraries in London, in provincial towns, and in the rural districts, *Edwards* 3387——Opinion that the formation of special libraries in the metropolis and provincial towns would lead to the formation of libraries on a large scale, *ib.* 3398.

5. *Foreign Libraries:*

Statement of the number of public libraries in the different countries of Europe, *Rep.* iv——Difficulty of ascertaining with accuracy the number of public libraries on the continent of Europe, *Edwards* 87–90——In whom the property of public libraries on the Continent is usually vested, *ib.* 126——Approximate statistical view of the principal public libraries of Europe and of the United States of America, *App.* 255–293——Approximate tabular view of the number of libraries containing 10,000 volumes or upwards, accessible to the public, in the several States of Europe, with illustrative remarks thereupon, *ib.* 275–278.

6. *France:*

The public libraries in the great towns of France are supported out of the municipal funds, *M. Guizot* 474–476——Definition of a public library as they exist in France, *ib.* 478

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6. *France*—continued.

478——Establishment of public libraries at Arras, Calais, and St. Omer, upon the same principle as the library at Boulogne, *Waley* 3079–3082.

See also *Admission of the Public. Advertisement Duty. Austria. Authors. Bavaria. Belgium. Berlin. Books,* 1. *Boulogne,* 1. *Bray,* Dr. *Brussels. Catalogues,* 1. *Charity Commissioners. Club Rooms. Committee of Council on Education. Copenhagen. Copyright of Books. Denmark. Donations. Dresden. Dublin. Edinburgh. Europe. Evening Sittings. Exemption from Rates. Fireproof Buildings. Florence. France,* 1. *Gas. Germany,* 2. *Inspectors of Libraries. Interchange of Books. Ireland. Italy. Leeds. Letters of Introduction. Librarians. Literature. Liverpool. London. Loss of Books. Lubeck. Manufacturing Districts. Manuscripts,* 1. *Milan. Minister of the Interior. Minister of Public Instruction. Monasteries,* 2. *Munich. Museums Act. New York. Overseers. Palermo. Paris. Parliamentary Grants. Printed Catalogues. Prussia. Reading Rooms. Rome. Salford Borough. Saxony. Schools of Design. Scotland. Town Councils. Turin. Tuscany. United States of America. Victoria Park. Vienna. West Riding of York.*

Publications. See *Cheap Publications. New Publications.*

Publishers. Hardship upon publishers of exacting copies of all works published; case on record of 11 copies of four works alone costing the publisher above 2,000 *l., Colles* 2933.

Purchase of Books. Sum voted annually by the French Chamber for the purchase of copies of every important work that is published, *M. Guizot* 472.

Q.

Quarterly Review. See *Periodical Publications.*

Queen's Inns (Dublin). See *King's Inns Library* (Dublin).

R.

Ragged School Libraries. Observations upon the system of libraries in connexion with the ragged schools of the metropolis, *Rep.* vii——Account of a library in connexion with a ragged school established in Marylebone, and success attending it, *Rep.* xi; *Imray* 3194–3214——Inability of the frequenters of the ragged school library to make a small subscription in aid of the funds of the library, *Imray* 3236, 3237——Class of persons who belong to the ragged school in Marylebone, *ib.* 3238–3240.

Raphoe. See *Cathedral Libraries,* 2.

Rare Works. Frequently that very remarkable works and books of great rarity and value are met with in the libraries of small towns in France, *Edwards* 31.

Ratepayers. A similar power should be given to a certain proportion of the ratepayers in each Parliamentary borough for the establishment of public libraries as is vested in town councils under the Museum Act, *Rep.* x; *Edwards* 353, 354; *Langley* 2461, 2462.

Rates. See *Exemption from Rates. Fitzwilliam Museum* (Cambridge).

Reading. The lower orders lose the art of reading in their adult years which they acquired when they were young, from the want of a sufficient supply of books, *Smiles* 2012.

See also *Agricultural Labourers. Cheap Publications.*

Reading Rooms. Necessity for having the reading room of a public library separate from the place of deposit of the books, *Rep.* ix; *Libri* 1918, 1919; *Colles* 2850; *Waley* 3064, 3065.——*See* also *British Museum,* 1. *King's College, Aberdeen.*

Record Commissioners' Reports. Present made by the British Government of one hundred copies of the Record Commissioners' Reports to the American legislature, *Stevens* 1612.

Records, Public. Publication of public records in France under the direction of the government, and distribution of copies to the public libraries, *Guizot* 474–476.

Redcross Street. See *Williams's Library, Redcross Street.*

Regimental Libraries. Establishment of a regimental library by the Grenadier Guards and Scotch Fusileers at Windsor, *Meyer* 2220, 2221.

Register.

Register. No register of frequenters of public libraries prevails on the Continent; persons consider the privilege of entrance as a sort of public right, *Edwards* 27-30.

Register of Books. Expediency of establishing a register of all new works published in Belgium, to be circulated weekly, *M. Van de Weyer*, 633, 634.

Regulations. See *Rules and Regulations.*

Reigate (Surrey). Account of a parochial library in existence at Reigate, in Surrey, *Smith* 2318. 2328——The library at Reigate is established under a local Act, *ib.* 2349.

Religious Books. Mistake in confining parochial and village libraries to purely religious books, *Dawson* 1317.——*See* also *Village Libraries.*

Religious Tract Society. Number of libraries founded in various parts of the kingdom by the Religious Tract Society since their commencement, *Jones* 2653-2655. 2662——Number of books contained in each library, *ib.* 2656——Value of the books distributed to different districts by the Religious Tract Society, *ib.* 2663-2667.

See also *Books,* 1. *Circulation of Tracts.* *Grants of Books.*

Resident Landlords. Advantage of resident landlords in promoting the welfare of the rural population, *Freemantle* 1419-1423.

Restrictions. Objection to placing restrictions on persons engaged in literary tasks seeking to borrow books from public libraries, *Edwards* 441; *Guizot* 499. 501. 514.

Retford. See *East Retford.*

Ribbon Manufacture. See *Coventry.*

Rodd, Mr. *Thomas.* Observations of Mr. Thomas Rodd, the bookseller, upon the value of Archbishop Tenison's library in St. Martin's, Westminster, *Hale* 942——Statement of the late Mr. Rodd of his collection having increased 25 per cent. in value, in consequence of the great demand for books in America, *Stevens* 1643.

Roden, Earl. Valuable manuscript belonging to Lord Roden, known as "Mac Firbis' Genealogies, and Collections of Irish Pedigrees," *Curry* 2609.

Roe, Rev. Mr. Addition made to Dr. Williams's library in Redcross-street by the donation of the Rev. Mr. Roe, *Cogan* 988.

Roman Catholic Chapels. Account of the small libraries attached to the Roman-catholic chapels in Dublin; disinclination of the conductors to extend them, *Curry* 2644.

Roman Catholic Priests. See *Trinity College, Dublin.*

Rome. Account of the principal public libraries at Rome accessible to the public, *Libri* 1842. 1858-1867. 1896.

See also *Minerva Library at Rome.* *Vatican Library* (Rome).

Roscoe. Difficulties experienced by Roscoe when composing his Lorenzo de Medici and his Life of Leo the Tenth, from the want of access to a good public library, *Rep.* iii; *Edwards* 18, 19.

Rouen. Strong desire shown by the municipal authorities of Rouen to establish a public library in that city, *M. Guizot* 482.——*See* also *Working Classes,* 5.

Royal Cork Institution. Account of the library in the city of Cork attached to the Royal Cork Institution, *Hamilton* 3414.

Royal Dublin Society. History of the foundation of the library of the Royal Dublin Society, and manner in which it is at present supported, *Rep.* vi; *Edwards* 241-244; *Colles* 2853——How far the library is capable of extension and increased popular utility, *Rep.* x——Conditions upon which parties are admitted to the library of the Dublin Society, *Curry* 2535-2545——Number of volumes in the Dublin Society's Library; date of its establishment, *ib.* 2547-2552; *Colles* 2585——Facility of access of the public to the library of the Royal Dublin Society, *Colles* 2838-2841——Amount of the public grant for the support of the Royal Dublin Society, *ib.* 2843. 2854——Number of readers, and extent of the accommodation in the library of the Royal Dublin Society, *ib.* 2845——Sum appropriated annually by the Royal Dublin Society for the support of the library, *ib.* 2855, 2856.

Objection to the system of lending books out to read from the Society's library; expediency of affording additional accommodation to readers within the library, *Colles* 2864-2876——Conditions upon which members are allowed to borrow books from the Royal Dublin Society, *ib.* 2912-2914—— Extent to which the Royal Dublin Society's library is frequented by artisans, *ib.* 2942-2944——Desire of the governing body of the Royal Dublin Society to make the institution as available for public purposes as possible, *ib.* 2961——Circumstance of a robbery at the Museum of the Royal Dublin

Royal Dublin Society—continued.

Society of a casket containing glass models of diamonds, *Colles* 2951——Statement of the means adopted from time to time by the Royal Dublin Society to render their institution and library as available as possible to the public, *ib.* 2969.

See also *Leinster House,* (Dublin). *Prior, Thomas, of Rathdowney.*

Royal Irish Academy. Sources from whence the library of the Royal Irish Academy derives support; number of volumes contained therein, *Rep.* vi; *Edwards* 245–251——Particulars respecting the library connected with the Royal Irish Academy; how supported; conditions upon which persons are admitted, *Curry* 2553–2569——Presentation of an important manuscript, known as "The Book of Lecan," to the Royal Irish Academy, by the Irish College in Paris, *ib.* 2605——The members of the Royal Irish Academy are composed of men of all parties, including Protestants, Presbyterians, and Roman Catholics, *ib.* 2615, 2616——Description and subject of the old manuscripts relating to Ireland, in the possession of the Royal Irish Academy, *ib.* 2970. 2997——Importance of the museum connected with the Royal Irish Academy; valuable articles of antiquity contained therein, *ib.* 2992, 2993.

See also *Betham,* Sir *William. Irish Manuscripts.*

Royal Library at Brussels. Conditions upon which books are lent to readers and literary men, from the Royal Library at Brussels, *M. Van de Weyer* 606, 607.

Royal Society. Number of volumes contained in the library of the Royal Society, *Weld* 3264——Conditions upon which the public are admitted to the library, *ib.* 3265–3267——System of lending books to fellows of the society, *ib.* 3268–3274——State of the catalogue of the Royal Society, *ib.* 3277–3279——Many officers of the British Museum apply at the library of the Royal Society for books that they cannot get access to in the British Museum, *ib.* 3280–3285.——*See* also *Presents of books.*

Royston (Cambridgeshire). Account of a parochial library in existence at Royston, in Cambridgeshire, *Smith* 2318.

Rules and Regulations. Rules and regulations are published for the guidance of librarians of public libraries in Belgium; any deviation therefrom must receive the previous sanction of the minister of the interior, *M. Van de Weyer* 621.

See also *Boulogne* 1. *Germany,* 2. *Salvandy,* M. *de.*

RURAL DISTRICTS:

1. *England.*
2. *France.*

1. *England:*

Great improvement, both in the character and habits of the rural population latterly, *Freemantle* 1405–1410.

2. *France:*

General desire shown by the rural population of Normandy to have access to books, *M. Guizot* 519.

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FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

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